

# National School Bus Safety Week: October 16-20, 2023

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**"BEEP! BEEP! School bus safety starts with me"** The theme of the 2023 National School Bus Safety Week is a unique reminder to motorists and students about the dangers that exist outside the school bus.



Brandon Anness, Coordinator  
Pre-Service School Bus  
Driver Training Program

Ensuring the safety of students during their daily commute is a top priority for school districts. The Warren County ESC's, Ohio Pre-Service Program trains the over 4,000 school bus drivers in Southwest Ohio. With this commitment in mind, we provide a rigorous training program designed to meet and exceed the Ohio standards for school bus drivers.

There are 14,800 Ohio school bus drivers. They drive over a million miles every day, transporting more than 750,000 students. Last school year NASDPTS estimated that over 41 million motorists nationwide illegally passed school buses while they were stopped to pick up and drop off students. Ohio school bus drivers, mechanics, secretaries, and supervisors work hard to provide safe transportation for Ohio children.

Key highlights of our school bus driver training program include:

- 1. Experienced Instructors:** Our training program is led by experienced instructors who possess in-depth knowledge of Ohio's school bus regulations and safety requirements. They are dedicated to providing our drivers with the highest quality training to meet both state and federal compliance.
- 2. On the Bus Instructors:** We certify each school districts, On the Bus Instructors(OBI). They provide a minimum of 12 hours of on the bus training for all new bus drivers. OBI's also perform the driving evaluations for their school district's drivers.
- 3. Focus on Ohio Regulations:** We prioritize Ohio-specific training, covering topics such as state laws, safety regulations, and routes unique to our region, ensuring our drivers are well-prepared for their responsibilities.
- 4. Safety First:** Safety is at the core of our program, encompassing school bus procedures, defensive driving techniques, emergency procedures, student management, and pre-trip and post trip inspections to equip our drivers with the skills necessary to handle any situation.
- 5. Ongoing Learning:** We believe that learning is a continuous journey. Every six years Ohio school bus drivers are required to complete recertification. Our program includes ongoing training through county in-services to keep our drivers updated on the latest Ohio school bus safety regulations and best practices.

The Warren County ESC is committed to continuous improvement in school bus safety. We regularly review and update our safety measures to align with the latest industry standards and best practices.

School bus safety is a shared responsibility, and we urge everyone to be vigilant and proactive in promoting a safe environment for our students. Together, we can ensure that our students arrive at school and return home safely each day.

