



# IPTA School Bus Stop

Promoting Student Transportation Safety  
on Iowa's School Buses Since 1963



**Iowa Pupil Transportation Association - Keep Student Safety First**

## Conference & TRADESHOW

**Register today!**

**IPTA 60th Annual School Transportation Conference & Trade Show**  
July 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- Iowa's Largest Tradeshow & Showcase of New Vehicles, Products & Services.
- New Director Training Workshop.
- Breakout Training Sessions.
- Mechanic Hands-On Training.
- Nightly food, fun, and entertainment.

**Join us!**

**REGISTER NOW!** [www.4ipta.org](http://www.4ipta.org)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Kaitlyn Sampson**  
EPA Environmental Specialist

**Denise Donaldson**  
Certified Child Passenger Safety Instructor

**Jerry Eslick**  
Safety Instructor  
Rescue Innovations

**Rod Larson**  
Iowa Highway Patrol

**Justin Larson**  
**Angela Dvorak**  
Heartland AEA

**Doug Yager**  
IC/Hoglund Bus Company

**Dale Anderson**  
Jester Insurance Company

**Franco Paganuzzi**  
United Safety, Fogmaker

**Bret Brooks**  
Gray Ram Tactical

**Ron Gann**  
Homeland Security  
TSA

**David Davlin**  
Keynote Speaker

Save the Dates: July 15th, 16th, and 17th for the IPTA Historic 60th Annual School Transportation Summer Conference & Tradeshow!

Join us in celebrating 60 years of progress at the IPTA School Transportation Summer Conference. This milestone event brings together industry professionals, experts, and enthusiasts to share knowledge and drive advancements in school transportation.

Mark your calendars for July 15th, 16th, and 17th at the prestigious Airport Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Prepare for an enriching experience that will leave you inspired, informed, and well-connected with fellow professionals in the field.

Get ready to be a part of this historic event and contribute to shaping the future of school transportation. We look forward to seeing you there!

### 2023-2024 Forth Quarterly Newsletter

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# 60<sup>th</sup> Annual IPTA School Transportation Conference and Tradeshow



The IPTA has an outstanding lineup of presenters and companies ready to provide everyone with valuable transportation related information on new products, laws, rules, regulations, and best practices.



**Day-One**, we have **Dave Davlin**, and his keynote presentation “Leadership Is Not About You! Become the person, make memories, and make a difference.”



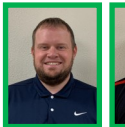
Next up **Rod Larson**, Public Resource Officer for the Iowa State Patrol program, “Safety Starts with You (Pre-trips and Seatbelts).”



**Jerry Eslick**, a thirty-eight-year veteran in the fire service at the West Des Moines, Fire Department as the Deputy Chief of Training. His program “Prepare For The Worst, Train To Be The Best” is one you do not want to miss. His program will be followed by the IC Products Update with the Hoglund Bus Company.

The Opening Day mid-day luncheon in the North Ballroom is sponsored by **Premier Wireless Solutions**.

In the afternoon we are happy to have **Denise Donaldson**, the owner of Safe Ride News, publisher of educational materials for the child passenger safety field, including the School Bus Safety Handbook, the LATCH Manual, and the Safe Ride News newsletter. Her program, “Child Safety Restraint Systems” pertains to some in-depth long needed education on student safety restraints applications.



Next up will be **Logan Hansch**, & **Mattias Schwartzkopf** with Growmark FS and they will review, “The Benefits of ZUsing Biodiesel the Humboldt CSD Case Study.” Their program is followed by the Department of Education with the School Bus Hall of Fame overview of Iowa Inspection issues.



If your district is interested in finding budget dollars to buy new school buses, **Kaitlyn Sampson**, is an Environmental Protection Specialist for the EPA in Region 7. Kaitlyn provides technical assistance to grant awardees for the grants that are awarded to recipients. Her program will be informing attendees on the, “Rebate/Grant Programs and Diesel Emission Reduction Act.”



The first day ends with **Franco Paganuzzi**, Sales Manager Fogmaker United Safety & Survivability Corporation. He has nearly 28 years of experience working within the school bus, transit, motor coach and rail markets. Franco has spent nearly 15 years working with Automatic Fire Detection and Suppression Systems for mobile vehicle applications.

His session, “How do fires occur, and why do you need Automatic Fire Suppression Systems.” will be followed at 4:15 p.m. with a live fire demonstration using the Fogmaker Demo Fire Burn Trailer, located in the Holiday Inn back parking lot. See for yourself how the Fogmaker system extinguishes a simulated engine fire in seconds.



In the evening of the first day we have the **Hoglund Bus Company Banquet**, and back by popular demand another exciting evening of Karaoke, music and entertainment with **Heather Fuger**. Tune up your singing voices and start choosing the songs you want to sing. Looking forward to a great night of food and fun.





## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual IPTA School Transportation Conference and Tradeshow



### DAY 2

**Day-Two**, has another outstanding line up of events including the Tradeshow and our annual IPTA Awards presentations at the noon luncheon.

The day begins with a buffet style breakfast sponsored by the **Iowa Renewable Fuels Association** followed by the IPTA Annual Board Meeting that provides a great overview of where we are and what the future holds for this 60 year old non-profit membership organization that is dedicated to assisting Iowa school districts in enhancing student safety.

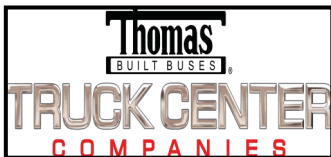


Next up is our **Iowa's Largest Tradeshow** showcasing over 47 exhibitors booths, with 5 full size school buses on display.

On July 16th explore the cutting-edge products and services that are shaping the future of school transportation. Iowa's largest trade show will showcase the latest technologies, solutions, and resources designed to enhance student safety, efficiency, and overall excellence in school transportation.

After the 3 hour tradeshow the afternoon starts with the tradeshow luncheon including awards presentations, sponsored by the **Auto Jet School Parts Company**. In the afternoon during the break-out sessions we have a variety of opportunities for product overviews and hands on training for attendees to choose.

- At 2:00 pm, **Tyler Technologies** will have a school bus parked out front for an opportunity for attendees to take an interactive ride-along demonstration of connectivity using onboard tablets. If you are considering tablets for your buses in the future this could provide you and your team an excellent overview of the this school bus innovation.
- At 2:00 pm, Doug Yager and the **Hoglund Bus Company** will be providing a hands on Mechanics session again at the Norwalk CSD Shop. Buses leave the Airport Holiday Inn Lobby at 2:10 pm for pre-registered attendees.
- In the Central South Ballroom at 2:00 pm, the **BusRight** company will present the session on how to build a route in 60 seconds using computerized route planning technology.
- Also in the Central South Ballroom at 3:45 pm, the **Transportant** company will present their session called, Using New Bus Technology to Get Ahead of the Rat Race.



In the evening of day two we have the Thomas Built Buses, **Truck Center Companies Family BBQ** with a roasted hog and all the side dishes. The evenings entertainment concludes with the very popular fifth annual Corn Hole Tournament with special prizes. Pick your team partners and warm up your throwing arms to improve your accuracy for a potential chance to win the tournament. (1st -3rd prizes) Looking forward to a great night of food and fun that you do not want to miss!



Join Us!







## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual IPTA School Transportation Conference and Tradeshow



**Day-Three** of the conference opens with a short social time, including coffee and rolls, before the exciting last day begins. We have a strong group of presenters lined up to provide attendees with a rich and engaging experience. The agenda includes a variety of insightful sessions designed to deepen your knowledge and foster professional connections. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to network, learn, and get inspired by our expert speakers. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable final day!

The first session of the day is the Blue Bird Product update provided by **School Bus Sales**.



**Lea Bogle**, President & CEO of Premier Wireless, in her session she will discuss, With Safety on the Line, Overcoming Budget Constraints with Grants. Lea is a dynamic presenter who will show attendees numerous ways to optimize school bus technology. She will share her experiences and highlight the benefits of leveraging technology through the grant process. Don't miss this opportunity to discover effective strategies for enhancing school safety and efficiency through innovative funding solutions.



**Dale Anderson**, Jester Insurance Services, This session will cover various risk management and insurance related topics about student transportation, including but not limited to claims examples, third-party liability, physical damage to student transportation vehicles, worker's compensation for bus drivers, driver training, and bus safety resources. Attendees will learn about the most frequent and severe types of student transportation vehicle claims in Iowa; how to know if your student transportation vehicles are adequately insured; what are the most frequent/severe types of worker's compensation claims for drivers, and; what resources are available to assist districts in the prevention/reduction of bodily injury and property damage claims related to student transportation.



**Bret Brooks**, the chief operating officer and a senior consultant with Gray Ram Tactical, LLC, brings a wealth of experience to his role. With a background as a former U.S. Army Captain and over 13 years in law enforcement, including serving as a SWAT Team sniper and counter-terrorism instructor, Bret offers unparalleled expertise. Additionally, he contributes to academic settings as an adjunct college professor, where he has created, established, and teaches Homeland Security courses for a military academy. Bret will lead two back-to-back sessions focused on critical safety and security topics:

- **Concealed Weapon Identification: What School Bus Drivers Need to Know:** This session aims to equip school bus drivers with the skills to identify concealed weapons effectively. Participants will learn about the types of concealed weapons, the common places where they might be hidden, and the behavioral cues that might indicate someone is carrying a concealed weapon. This knowledge is crucial for ensuring the safety of students and staff during transportation.
- **Indicators of Violence: Verbal & Non-Verbal:** In this session, attendees will gain insights into recognizing the early signs of potential violence through both verbal and non-verbal indicators. Understanding these signs can help in preempting and preventing violent incidents. The session will cover various behavioral patterns and communication styles that may signal imminent violence, enabling participants to respond appropriately and maintain a safe environment.

Both sessions are designed to enhance situational awareness and proactive response strategies, contributing to the overall safety and security in educational and public transportation settings.



**Ron Gann**, Department of Homeland Security is next up with the comprehensive session:

**Insider, Threat Mitigation:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has developed a comprehensive Insider Threat Mitigation Program aimed at preventing, detecting, and responding to threats posed by individuals with authorized access to their facilities, systems, or information. This program is part of DHS's broader efforts to enhance national security by addressing potential threats from within the organization. Ron will provide an overview of the key components of the DHS insider threat mitigation program to educate employees and stakeholders about the nature of insider threats, how to recognize them, and the importance of reporting suspicious activities. Learn how to be prepared by proactively addressing internal risks and enhancing your districts overall security posture.



## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual IPTA School Transportation Conference and Tradeshow



**Day Three** continues with a Train-The-Trainer Session for transportation supervisors and school bus drivers. The title of the session: **Train the Trainer: De-Escalation Action Planning for Bus Drivers**, with, Angela Dvorak & Justin Larson

**Angela Dvorak** and **Justin Larson** are professional learning and leadership consultants from Heartland AEA who have supported central Iowa schools with crisis prevention training and support for over a decade.

This session is a train the trainer de-escalation training that will include how to build meaningful relationships with students and create a positive and supportive climate on the bus. Participants will gain knowledge on effective nonverbal and verbal de-escalation strategies and develop their own action plan. The training will include a slide deck, bus driver handouts, and videos and can be easily replicated within your school district. Key takeaways:

- Building strong, positive relationships with students is essential for a supportive bus environment.
- Nonverbal and verbal de-escalation techniques are critical skills for bus drivers to manage conflicts effectively.
- Developing a personalized action plan ensures that bus drivers are prepared to handle potential issues proactively.

This session aims to empower transportation supervisors and bus drivers with the skills and confidence needed to create a safe and respectful environment on school buses, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being and security of students.



**The New Directors Workshop** presented by the Department of Education Inspection Team will be held in (Room 397) from 12:25 pm - 3:30 pm. The New Directors Workshop is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the essential aspects of student transportation management. This workshop is beneficial for both new and experienced directors, offering an in-depth look at crucial topics that impact daily operations and long-term planning.

It is designed to address both the technical and real-world challenges faced by transportation personnel. By covering a wide spectrum of topics, the workshop ensures a holistic approach to student safety and transportation management.

This workshop is a valuable opportunity for directors to enhance their knowledge and skills, ensuring they are well-prepared to manage the complexities of student transportation. The Department of Education Team looks forward to supporting you in your role and helping you achieve excellence in transportation safety and compliance.

### Registration and Accommodation for the Historic 60th Annual IPTA Summer Conference & Trade Show

- **Conference Registration Fees:** IPTA Members \$350.00, for all three days. Non-Member \$410.00 for all three days.
- **Make Your Hotel Reservations Early:** The IPTA has arranged for a block of specially priced rooms at the rate of \$105.00 plus 12% tax per night. That rate is good until June 23rd, 2024, then it goes back up to the full nightly regular rate. The Airport Holiday Inn Conference Center is located at 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact the Airport Holiday Inn at: **(515) 287-2400**.

The IPTA Board of Directors extends a warm welcome to everyone involved in providing safe student transportation, emphasizing the importance of collective progress and excellence. Whether you are a seasoned professional or new to the field, this 3-day event will leave you inspired, informed, and connected.

Gain knowledge, develop new skills and strategies, collaborate, learn best practices with fellow transportation professionals and see new transportation innovations at this years IPTA Conference. Don't miss out on this historic event! Register today and be part of a future-focused gathering dedicated to the safety and well-being of our students and transportation teams.

**Register Today:** Registration for the Historic 60th Annual IPTA School Transportation Summer Conference & Trade Show is open on the IPTA Website [www.4ipta.org](http://www.4ipta.org) right now! Register today and secure your spot to take advantage of this incredible chance to be part of this historic gathering. This is a not-to-be-missed event opportunity!

**Join us in Des Moines for an enriching experience that promises to leave you inspired, informed, and connected.**



**MONDAY, JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

7:30 am - Registrations, Early Bird Coffee (Lobby)  
 8:30 am - Welcome and Announcements (Central South Ballroom)  
 8:45 am - **Meet the IPTA Board Candidates**  
 9:00 am - **Dave Davlin, Keynote:** Leadership Is Not About You! (Become the person. The difference we make, Memories Created)  
 10:00 am - Break (Sponsored By: **Midwest Bus Parts**)  
 10:15 am - **Rod Larson, Iowa Highway Patrol** Safety Starts with You (Pre-trips and Seatbelts)  
 10:45 am - **Jerry Eslick**, Prepare For The Worst, Train To Be The Best  
 11:15 am - **Hoglund Bus Company, IC Product Updates**

11:45 am - **Opening Day Luncheon** (North Ballroom)  
 (Sponsored By **Premier Wireless Solutions**)

(Central South Ballroom Large Group Session)

1:00 pm - **Denise Donaldson**, - Safety Restraint Systems  
 2:00 pm - **Benefits of using Biodiesel Humboldt Case Study**  
 2:30 pm - **DE Update** - School Bus Hall of Fame"  
 3:00 pm - Break (Sponsored By: **TransAct & 247 Security**)  
 3:15 pm - **Kaitlyn Sampson** - EPA Clean School Bus Rebate/Grant Program - Diesel Emission Reduction Act  
 3:45 pm - **Franco Paganuzzi**, United Safety, The Need for Fire Detection & Suppression on School Buses  
 4:15 pm - **School Bus Burn Trailer Demonstration** Located in the back parking lot.

5:30 pm - **Evening Banquet & Entertainment**  
 (Sponsored By **Hoglund Bus Company**)

**TUESDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00 am - **Breakfast** (Central South Ballroom Large Group Sessions)  
 (Sponsored By **Iowa Renewable Fuels Association**)

8:00 am - **IPTA Annual Board Meeting**  
 8:35 am - **Bus Right Overview**  
 8:45 am - **IPTA Reorganizational Board Meeting**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Iowa Hall)

**Iowa's Largest Tradeshow**  
 (Sponsored By: **Bus Right**)

12:00 pm - **Trade Show Vendor/Attendee** (Main Ballroom)  
**Luncheon (Awards and Presentations)**  
 (Sponsored By: **Auto-Jet School Bus Parts**)

(Central South Ballroom Large Group Session)

1:30 pm - **Truck Center Companies Product Update**

**First ½ Break-Out Sessions**

2:00 pm - **Tyler Technologies** Interactive Ride-Along Training Demonstration (Board the bus at the front entrance)

2:00 pm - **IC/Hoglund Bus Co.**, Hoglund University Training Buses Leave for Norwalk from the lobby at 2:10 pm (Return at 5:30 pm)

2:00 pm - **BusRight** - Build a route in 60 seconds (Central South Ballroom)

3:30 pm - Break (Sponsored By: **IEE Sensing Inc. & BusBuddy**)

**Second ½ Break-Out Sessions**

3:45 pm - **Transportant** - Using New Bus Technology to Get Ahead of the Rat Race (Central South Ballroom)

5:30 pm - **Family BBQ & Entertainment**  
 (Sponsored By **Truck Center Companies**)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00 am - Early Bird Coffee (Lobby)  
 (Central South Ballroom Large Group Sessions)

7:30 am - **Blue Bird Product Updates** School Bus Sales  
 8:00 am - **Lea Boggle**, Premier Wireless: Safety on the line. Overcoming Budget Constraints with Grants

8:30 am - **Dale Anderson, Jester Insurance Company:** Insurance & Risk Management Considerations

9:00 am - Break (Sponsored By: **Purple Wave Auctions**)

9:15 am - **Bret Brooks**, Concealed Weapon Identification, What School Bus Drivers Need to Know.

10:45 am - **Bret Brooks**, Indicators of Violence Verbal & Non-Verbal

11:15 am - **Ron Gann**, Department of Homeland Security Insider, Threat Mitigation

11:45 am - **Angela Dvorak & Justin Larson** Train the Trainor De-Escalation for Bus Drivers

12:15 pm - **Sandwich Box Lunch** (Lobby)  
 (Sponsored By: **Arnold Motor Supply**)

12:25 pm - 3:30 pm - **New Directors Workshop**

Department of Education Team (Room 397)  
 The workshop covers everything from State and Federal laws, rules, and regulations, to accident procedures and the inspection process. This workshop is for new and old directors alike!

**Conference Concludes - Have a safe journey home!**

**Your IPTA Board Members want to express our endless gratitude and appreciation for everything you do to keep students, staff, and the public safe!**

**David Johnson Named Executive Director of the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association**

In a recent announcement, the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association (IPTA) appointed David Johnson as its new Executive Director. This decision comes as a result of David's impressive background and extensive experience in the transportation sector, particularly within the educational domain.

David brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role, having served as a transportation director at the Van Meter School District. His familiarity with the intricacies of school transportation systems, coupled with his active involvement in the IPTA Board, uniquely positions him to lead the organization effectively.

A proud graduate of Van Meter and an alumnus of Iowa State University, David's educational journey laid a solid foundation for his career in the transportation industry. Beyond his professional accomplishments, David remains deeply engaged in his community. As a coach for track and field, certified by the Level 1 USATF, he demonstrates a commitment to the holistic development of students beyond the classroom.

David's dedication extends beyond the realm of education. His active participation in his church, where he serves as a financial officer on the board of directors, reflects his strong sense of community and service.

With a passion for outdoor activities such as running and biking, David embodies a balanced approach to life, one that prioritizes physical well-being alongside professional and community engagement.

The IPTA Board of Directors' overwhelming endorsement of David underscores his suitability for the position. His leadership qualities, management skills, and problem-solving abilities make him the ideal candidate to lead the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association forward.

Chris Darling our current IPTA Executive Director will remain on until October 1, 2024, to provide a smooth transition period. As David assumes his new role as Executive Director on June 1, 2024, the IPTA Membership extends their warmest wishes for success. Under his guidance, the association is poised to continue its mission of ensuring safe and efficient student transportation across Iowa.

David Johnson's appointment heralds a new chapter for the IPTA. One marked by innovation, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to student safety. As he embarks on this journey, the IPTA community stands ready to support him every step of the way.



*Iowa Pupil Transportation Association*

**IPTA Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsorship Partners including 2023-2024 Sustaining Members**

Thank You to all of our Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsorship Partners!  
Thank you to all of our IPTA Sustaining Member Companies!



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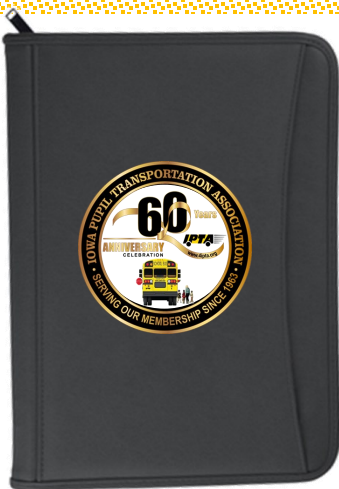
Iowa Propane Gas Association  
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Midwest Wheel Companies  
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Contact the IPTA at: Phone: (712) 830-3242 - E-mail: [2015ipta@gmail.com](mailto:2015ipta@gmail.com) - Website: [www4ipta.org](http://www4ipta.org)

IPTA Board Members: Carlos Guerra, President, Norwalk, Merrill Mueller, Jr., Vice President, Algona, Nathan Beal, Storm Lake, Dan Walston, Bedford, Mary Jo Hetrick, Bondurant-Farrar, Betty Golay, Des Moines Christian, Woody Harden, Washington, David Johnson, Van Meter, Bobbie Finley, Interstate 35, Leo Reigelsberger, Humboldt, Codie Kellen, LeMars, Mark Branch, Fairfield, Chris Darling, IPTA Executive Director





Deluxe IPTA Executive Portfolio



Two Sided IPTA Commemorative Coin



IPTA 60th Anniversary T-Shirt



IPTA (20 oz) Tumbler

### **IPTA Conference Promotional Items**

Included with your 3 day attendee registration to the Historic 60th Annual IPTA Summer Conference & Trade Show

**Register Today at: [www.4ipta.org](http://www.4ipta.org)**