As of 7/15/2019

Contestants

**Karlene Anderson**  
St. Paris, OH  
Karlene is a two-time international competitor, and has competed numerous times at her state and regional competitions since 2004. Karlene has been driving for seventeen years, all without an accident. She loves her job, her students, and the early morning sunrises she’s fortunate to witness.

**Emace Andrews**  
Columbia, SC  
Emace, a first time competitor in the 2019 competition, has been driving bus for 2 years now. His favorite part of being a professional bus driver is having the opportunity to be like a mentor to the students. He also has a passion for cars and motorcycles.

**Christina Burynuik**  
Edmonton, AB  
Christina, a first time international safety competition participant, has been accident free for 11 years. She’s also been with her current employer, Southland Transportation, LTD, for 6 years. Christina loves to bake cakes and crochet when she’s not driving.

**Becky Craig-Johnson**  
Rathdrum, ID  
Becky is a veteran competitor in the International competition, having competed in four previous competitions. She has been driving bus for 13 years and is fulfilled in her school bus career through greeting her students everyday and spending time with fellow drivers. She loves home improvement projects, camping, and fly fishing.

**Ruth Del Vecchio**  
Glenmoore, PA  
Ruth is competing in the International School Bus Safety competition for the second time this year. She has been driving bus for almost 16 years for the Krapf School Bus Company. She enjoys gardening, cooking, and loves driving her special needs route.

**Ronald Estoque, Jr.**  
Prince Frederick, MD  
Ronald is a first-time competitor this year! He has been driving bus for 4 years total and has spent the last 3 years driving for Jones School Bus Service. When he's not driving buses, he enjoys riding ATVs, hiking, and volunteering at Rescue Squad.

**Kathleen Graham**  
Christiansburg, VA  
Kathleen is a 4 time competitor in the international competition - she competed twice in conventional class and twice in transit class. She has been driving bus for 24 years now and driven well over 360,000 miles. She appreciates the importance of her job. She loves her route, students, parents, and bus. She likes knowing that she makes a positive difference as a school bus driver!

**Larry Hannon, Jr.**  
Warminster, PA  
Larry, a first time international safety competition has participated in six state and local safety competitions. He has been driving for seven years and loves how rewarding his job is. When he’s not driving his 2016 Blue Bird bus, Larry enjoys running and reading.
James Haug  
Topeka, KS  
James has been a school bus driver for almost 3 years. This is his second time competing at the international level. He finds that driving bus can be challenging but mostly it's a fun and rewarding career.

Russell Holdwick  
Clinton Township, MI  
Russell has been driving bus for 12 years now and this is his third time competing at the international level. He is responsible for all different routes and he enjoys the students and interacting with other drivers. When he's not driving bus, he enjoys the outdoors and spending time with the grandkids.

Travis Jepson  
Wilmington, DE  
This is Travis' second time competing in the International Safety Competition and has been driving bus for a total of 12 years. He has been with Advanced Student Transportation for all of those 12 years and feels it is an honorable job to have. He enjoys meeting the students each year & when he's not driving his bus, you can find him biking, hiking, running, and playing cards.

Les Johnson  
Santa Maria, CA  
Les is an eight-time international competition competitor and has been driving for thirty-two years. He previously worked in law enforcement, but left to pursue a career as a school bus driver. When he’s not driving, Les loves to work with electronic sound equipment or listen to music.

Debra L'Abbe  
Prairie View, IL  
Debra is an 11 time competitor in the International Safety Competition. She has been driving with First Student for over 27 years. She loves to drive and enjoys the students. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, fishing, boating & camping.

Susan Luongo  
Townsend, MA  
Susan is a third time competitor at the international competition. She has been driving bus for 16 years and has been with Dee Bus Service for the past 5 years. She began driving as a way to work while her daughters were in school, but now she just enjoys driving and that they schedule allows her time to work on her knitting!

Julia Maxwell  
Cheney, WA  
Julia is a school bus driver for Cheney Publics Schools in Washington.

Michelle McIntosh  
Liberty Township, OH  
This is Michelle's first year competing at the international level! She has been driving bus for the past 16 years and drives a special needs route. She has always loved to drive but the kids make the job exciting for her. In her free time, she loves riding motorcycles and horses!
Michelle Moore
Belton, MO
Michelle, a first-time international safety competition competitor, has been driving for six years with the same company, DS Bus Lines. Michelle previously competed for her regional (Kansas City) and state competition (Missouri) in 2018 and 2019.

Dawn Moore
Farmington, NM
Dawn, a 2018 international safety competition competitor, has been driving for sixteen years without a single accident. When she’s not driving her 2015 IC bus, she loves reading, cross stitching, woodworking, and camping with family and friends.

Julie Moss
Portland, OR
Julie Moss is a 2 time competitor in the international safety competition. She has been driving bus for 18 years and for the past decade, has been a regular route driver for First Student. She enjoys music, traveling, and cake decorating!

Nancy Nelson
Cheyenne, WY
Nancy is a rookie competitor in this year’s international safety competition. She has been driving bus for the past 6 years - accident free! As part of the training staff, she doesn’t have a set route but enjoys driving routes with challenging students to help get the bus under control for the new driver. She enjoys baking, camping, crocheting, and spending quality time with her granddaughters.

Cynthia Peters
Huntington Station, NY
Cynthia has been driving for seventeen years and has competed at her state competition every year since 2007! She loves working with kids and teaching them the proper way to ride a school bus. When she’s not driving, she enjoys crocheting, fishing and puzzles.

Lindsey Price
Tualatin, OR
This is Lindsey's second year driving bus and competing in the international competition. She drives special needs routes and enjoys getting to the know the students and their families. In her free time, she likes to go camping, ride quads & motorcycles, and reading.

Kristina Raley
Vidor, TX
Kristy is a six time competitor in the international safety competition and has been driving bus for 25 years. She finds driving to be rewarding and challenging. She also enjoys being a good influence in the lives of her students. In her spare time, she enjoys hunting and spending time with her family.

Mark Siersma
Lagrange, GA
Mark, a 2016 international competitor, is a special needs driver and has driven for twelve years. Mark has formerly competed at his state’s competition eleven times. When he’s not driving his 2017 Blue Bird bus and bonding with his students, he’s listening to music.
Erika Smalley
Mountain Home, ID
Erika has been driving bus for the past 6 years and this year is her first time competing in the international safety competition. She loves to meet her new students each year and watch them grow. She also enjoys having the summer off! When she’s not driving a school bus, she enjoys movies, animals, and going out for long drives.

Victor Smith
Mals, MN
This is Victor's second time competing in the international safety competition in his 9 years of driving a school bus. He enjoys driving bus because of all the great people he meets, getting to know the students, and that it means he’s not stuck inside all day! When he’s not driving - you can find him playing softball and cooking.

Rebecca Stanton
Wichita, KS
Rebecca has been driving a school bus for seventeen years. She is returning to compete in her third international competition and has competed every year at the Kansas state competition since 2003. When she’s not driving her 2014 Thomas Built bus, she enjoys reading.

Cynthia Taylor
Delavan, WI
Cynthia, a rookie competitor, participated for the first time this year at her state competition. She has been driving for 10 years, and cannot imagine being a part of any other profession. When she’s not driving her 2011 Thomas Built bus, she loves to run, crochet, play dungeons and dragons, or read.

Tammy Thoits
Standish, ME
Tammy is a first time international safety competition competitor! She has been driving for seventeen years and loves her job. When she’s not driving her 2013 Blue Bird bus, she loves camping and riding her motorcycle with her husband, Randy.

Eric Derrone Turner
Winton, NC
Eric has been a bus driver for about 25 years. This year is his fourth international safety competition. He likes being someone the students can turn to in times of need and being the person who gets them to school and home safely. When he's not driving, he enjoys fishing.

Mark Vander Zouwen
Grandville, MI
Mark, a bus driver of 32 years for Grandville Public School, is competing in the international safety competition for the fifth time this year. He likes working with the kids and being an asset to the school system. When he’s not on the road for work, he enjoys golf, bowling, camping, and bicycle riding.

Wanda vanZonneveld
Greenwood Village, CO
Wanda is returning for her third international competition, having previously competed in 2016 and 2017. She’s been driving for four and a half years—all without an accident. Wanda takes immense pride in transporting her students to and from school safely.
Jeremy Villar
Columbiana, AL
Jeremy is a rookie competitor in this year’s international competition. He has been driving bus for just 2 years and placed 2nd in Shelby County Road-E-O. As a kid, his mother was his school bus driver so he has a strong connection to the job. He finds fulfillment in getting the kids to school and being a positive influence in their days.

Lawrence Wilberding
Lansing, MI
Lawrence is competing in the international safety competition for the first time this year. He has been driving bus for over ten years for Dean Transportation. He loves his special needs riders and enjoys driving. His free time is spent golfing, fishing, and hunting.

Leroy Willis
Forest Lake, MN
Leroy started driving bus this year and he was awarded rookie of the year in the Minnesota State Rodeo in addition to placing second overall. He is a first time competitor at the international level. He loves driving because of the interactions with the students everyday. He enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and ATVing in his spare time.

Billy Wiseman
Charleston, WV
Billy is a seven time competitor in the international safety competition and has been driving bus for Kanawha County Schools for 30 years. He enjoys providing a safe ride to school for the children and in his free time- he enjoys 4-wheeling.

Gregory Zemblidge
Chesterfield, MO
Gregory is a first time international competition competitor. He previously competed in his state and regional competitions. He has driven for twenty-one years, eighteen of which have been with Parkway School District. Gregory loves his job as a driver and having fun with his students.

As of 7/15/2019
Pam Boyle
Olathe, KS
Pam is a first time international safety competition participant! She’s also an accident free driver that has been with First Student for four and a half years. While she’s not driving her students to school, she spends her time sewing and singing.

Miranada Cecchini-Roosevelt
El Dorado, KS
Miranda, a first time international safety competition participant, loves helping her student passengers start and end their days with a bang. When she’s not driving for El Dorado School, Miranda enjoys crocheting, reading, traveling and playing the flute.

Marlon Forrester
Plainview, NY
Marlon, a special needs and regular route driver, has been with WE Transport, Inc. for seven and a half years. This is Marlon’s first international safety competition! He previously placed first at New York’s safety competition and was awarded “Rookie of the Year.”

Dodo Freerksen
RIMBEY, AB
Dodo, a 15-year accident free driver, works for First Student Canada. He’s competing for the first time as a small bus driver in the international competition, having previously competed in 2002, 2010, and 2015 as a conventional driver.

Elizabeth Keeney
Oak Creek, WI
Elizabeth is a first time competitor in this year’s international competition. She has been driving bus for 17 years. Her favorite part of being a professional school bus driver is working with the children and the community. When she’s off the road, she enjoys fishing, camping, and reading.

John Labus
Huntington, WV
This is John’s 8th time competing in the International School Bus Driver Safety Competition. He has been a bus driver for 20 years, accident free! He has fond memories of his bus driver who allowed him to ride the whole route even though he was the first stop. In his free time, you can find John camping, kayaking, and spending time with his family.

Melissa Melser
Anoka, MN
Melissa has been driving bus for almost 9 years and this is her second year competing in the international safety competition. The best part of being a professional school bus driver for Melissa, is getting to help her kids start their day on the best foot possible by getting them safely to school with a positive attitude.

William Morse
Charlottesville, VA
William has been driving bus for 8 years and this is his first time competing in the international safety competition. He enjoys with the children and his school bus family. In his spare time, he likes to play board & computer games.
Sally Musolino
Colton, OR
Sarah, a rookie international safety competition participant, has been driving bus for 12 years. She's participated in many state and regional competitions and loves driving, especially her special needs students! While she's not driving her 2017 Blue Bird bus, Sarah loves playing with her parrots or riding horses.

Cathy Siebert
Forest Lake, MN
Cathy has been with her current employer for 13 years but has been driving bus for the past 3. This is her first year competing at the international level. She loves spending time with her grandkids, fishing, boating, and kick-boxing. She loves her special needs students because they are so personable and always keep her smiling.

Sue Walker
Santa Rosa, CA
This is Susan's first year competing in the international safety competition. She has been driving bus for the same company for 12 years now and she loves her job! In her spare time, she also enjoys knitting, crocheting, and needlepoint.
Contestants

Derek Bosserman
Truckee, CA
Derek, is a returning international competitor, having previously competed in 2016. He has been driving for twelve years, all without an accident. He loves to kike, ski and bike when he’s not enjoying his office view in his 2018 Blue Bird bus.

Shawnae Branigan
Burns, WY
Shawnae is competing in the international safety competition for the first time this year! She’s been driving bus for 7 years accident free. When she isn’t driving, she enjoys motorcycle riding, archery, and shooting.

Ken Bruce
Whitewater, WI
Ken has been driver for 5 years for Nelson's Bus. He is a rookie international safety competition participant and an accident free driver. In his spare time Ken enjoys being outdoors fishing or gardening.

Kelsi Cleverly
Preston, ID
Kelsi formerly competed in the 2018 international school bus safety competition. She has been driving for 12 years accident free for Preston School District. In her free time, she enjoys softball, volleyball, horseback riding & camping.

Sergio Duenas
San Bernandino, CA
Sergio is veteran international competitor, having formerly competed in 2018. He has been driving for twenty-six years and has been accident free for eleven years. When Sergio’s not driving his 2006 Thomas Built bus, he likes to read, walk or watch TV.

Lori Fanger
Stow, OH
Lori is in her 20th year driving for Stow-Monroe Falls City School District, accident free. It is also her first year competing in the international school bus safety competition. She loves having the opportunity to support and encourage her students. When she’s not driving, she enjoys biking, swimming, and doing yard work.

Joseph Goodpaster
Huntington, WV
Joseph is an 8 time competitor in the international safety competition. He has been driving for 14 years, accident free! He loves hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family.

Lance Ideker
Meridian, ID
Lance has been driving bus for 2 years and this is also his second year competing in the International Safety Competition! As a professional bus driver, Lance likes the skills he's acquired and the pure joy of driving. In his free time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

As of 7/18/2019
Leroy James
Ganado, AZ
Leroy is a rookie international safety competition competitor and prides himself on being a safe school bus operator. He has been driving for twenty three years and without accident for the last twenty-two years. Leroy loves working on buses and traveling.

William Jansen
Liberty Township, OH
William is a first-time international safety competition competitor, but has competed twice for his state competition. William has been driving for two years. He loves to serve the public by being a driver—transporting students on his 2005 Blue Bird bus.

Delene Lewis
Allen, TX
Delene is a two-time international competitor, having formerly competed in 2016 and 2018. She loves her special needs route, and helping to make a difference in the lives of the students she drivers. She’s been driving for four years and loves to cake decorate in her spare time.

Mark Miller
Bellingham, WA
Mark has been a school bus driver for 10 years and drive all types of routes. This is his second International Safety Competition. He finds satisfaction in his work as a professional school bus driver but also enjoys music, sports, and being a dad to his 2 children.

Sarah Norton
White Bear Lake, MN
Sarah is a rookie driver in this year’s international safety competition. She has been driving bus for over five years and she finds that being a professional school bus driver is a great accomplishment. When she’s off the road, she enjoys crafts, sewing, and embroidery projects.

Stephen Ogden
Brownsburg, IN
Stephen has been a professional school bus driver for 11 years and this is his first time competing in the International Safety Competition. He loves his job because he can be a friendly face for his students and their parents. In his spare time, he flies planes and rebuilds cars.

James O'Toole
Haverford, PA
Jim has been driving bus for 20 years with the School District of Haverford Township. He placed first at the PA State competition and this is his second time competing in the International Safety Competition. He enjoys watching the students grow-up though the years and in his free time he's a Nascar fan and wood worker.

Jerry Palmer
Olathe, KS
Jerry has been driving bus for 25 years now and this is his 4th time competing in the international safety competition. He drive all types of routes and especially enjoys the fieldtrips and the sports teams. He loves meeting the kids, coaches, parents, and teams each year. In his spare time, he likes to go fishing.

As of 7/18/2019
David Parker
Grant Pass, OR
David is a school bus driver for First Student in Grant Pass, Oregon.

Hannah Scharfenberg
St. Charles, MO
Hannah is a six-time international competitor and has been driving for thirteen years, all without an accident. She loves being a positive role model for her students and the first smiling face they see. When she’s not driving, she loves to spend time with her family.

MaryEllen Strem
Tyngsboro, MA
MaryEllen has been driving but for 4 years and is a first time competitor in the international safety competition. She has always enjoyed working with children so she finds driving a big bus exciting and rewarding. Some of her hobbies include kayaking, crafting, and reading.

James Talbert
Goddard, KS
James has previously competed in his regional and state competitions but is competing for the first time at the international competition! He has been driving a school bus for sixteen years. When he’s not driving his Blue Bird bus, he likes to tinker with small engines.

Jose Torres
Shirley, NY
Jose is returning for his second international competition, having competed formerly in 2018. Jose has driven for sixteen years, all for the same company—WE Transport, Inc. When he’s not driving his 2017 Blue Bird bus, Jose collects comic books.

Marcos Valdes
Beaverton, OR
Marcos is a returning competitor, having competed at the international competition last year. He has been driving for ten years, all without an accident, and has participated in his state and local competitions every year since he began driving.

Cheryl Vogelsang
Downingtown, PA
Cheryl has been driving bus for 30 years and has competed at the international level nine times. She currently drives a special needs route and truly enjoys the work. She has made many friends over the years from all over the United States through working in school transportation. When she’s not driving, she enjoys deep sea fishing and crocheting.