

# THE BUS STOPS HERE



## Safety Newsletter

May 23, 2025



SUFFOLK TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC

SUFFOLK BUS CORP.



**A Huge Round of Applause for the 2025 NYSBCA State Rodeo!** The New York School Bus Contractors Association (NYSBCA) proudly hosted the 2025 State Rodeo on May 17th at the beautiful Rockland State Park in Nyack, NY — and what an incredible day it was! A heartfelt THANK YOU to our amazing contestants who showcased their skills, professionalism, and dedication: Clarence Anderson, Jennifer Friedman, Chiquita Hardy, Jorenda Howell, Elena Mounce, Susan Ramkissoon, Charmain Kanhai Noronha, Andrine Howlett-McLloyd and Mario Helena — you all made us proud! A special shoutout to our dedicated judges and volunteers who made the event run smoothly — from the early morning breakfast to the delicious BBQ celebration, your support was invaluable. Congratulations to Charmain Kanhai Noronha for taking home 3rd place in the Van Division!

Your hard work and excellence truly stood out! Thank you to everyone who made this event a success.

**CHROMEBOOK CHALLENGE ALERT:** A social media trend called the “Chromebook Challenge” encourages students to insert metal objects into Chromebook USB ports causing dangerous short circuits. This can trigger battery failure, fires, or explosions and has the potential to release toxic, flammable vapors. Precautions to take include not touching the device, unplug device if it is safe to do so. Follow the R.A.C.E. fire response: R – Rescue, A – Alarm, C – Confine, E – Evacuate. Report tampering immediately, notify your supervisor immediately. Tampered devices may fail later, even off school grounds, never charge a suspected device.

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:** Suffolk Transportation wants to congratulate the 2025 Scholarship winners from the Suffolk County Chapter of NYAPT. These scholarships are awarded to children or grandchildren of school transportation employees that demonstrate community service, academic achievement and write an exemplary essay. This year Samantha Brodsky won a Bird Bus scholarship and a NESCO Bus scholarship and Isabella Ulloa won a Bird Bus scholarship. Pictured (L-R) are Anthony Zaragoza of NESCO Bus, Arlene Boglino her grandmother and Suffolk Transportation employee for 29 years and a school bus driver for over 50 years, her mother Lisa Brodsky, Samantha, and Rick Reichenbach of Bird Bus. Also, pictured is Isabella Ulloa and her mother Maria Ulloa, a Suffolk Transportation employee for 24 years. We wish these young people good luck in their college careers and

the life ahead of them.



**REAR-END COLLISION PREVENTION:** Rear-end collisions are among the most common—and preventable—traffic accidents. As school bus and transit drivers, you carry precious cargo and play a critical role in road safety. These incidents often result from following too closely, distractions, misjudging stopping distances, sudden traffic changes, or failing to adjust to weather conditions. Even a brief lapse in attention can have serious consequences. To help prevent these accidents, always maintain

a safe following distance by using the 4-second rule and increase it to at least 6 seconds in poor weather. Stay focused by keeping your attention on the road and avoiding distractions such as phones, eating, or adjusting controls. Anticipate traffic flow by watching several vehicles ahead for brake lights or sudden stops, giving yourself more time to react. Brake smoothly and early to help prevent collisions and allow drivers behind you time to respond. Finally, adjust your driving for conditions like rain, fog, snow, or bright sunlight, which can reduce visibility and increase stopping distance. By staying alert and practicing these habits, you help ensure a safer ride for everyone on board—and on the road.

**SUMMER WORK:** We are planning our summer season! Sign-up is now available on My Parking Space. Click on the Sun icon on your mobile device to sign up. All drivers and DAs hired on 1/1/19 or later need to sign up for summer work and attend the pick. If we have enough employees, you may get the opportunity to pass on summer work. Remember, summer programs are 6-8 weeks in duration.



Check out our Facebook page for our latest employee spotlight, Kendra McLeod, Babylon, and West Islip Large Bus Supervisor.

### Honoring Our Heroes This Memorial Day

This Memorial Day, let's pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Their courage, dedication, and selflessness will never be forgotten. To all veterans and their families, thank you for your service, your strength, and your sacrifice. We are forever grateful.

