



# SAFETY NEWSLETTER THE BUS STOPS HERE



Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc. and Suffolk Bus Corp.



## *A Partnership in Safety*

January 16, 2026



### **The Mid-Year Bonus is Almost Here!**

Great news for our hardworking team! If you are a full-time school bus or van driver or a driver assistant with at least one continuous year of service, you are eligible for the mid-year bonus after the February break. To qualify, make sure you have worked 16 full weeks this school year and report to work the day before and the day after the break. Don't worry, absences for bereavement, official union business, or jury duty won't affect your eligibility. Mark your calendars bonuses will be issued two weeks after winter break, and the amount depends on your years of service.

**FEBRUARY RECESS:** Our scheduled February recess will take place from Monday, February 16th, 2026, through Friday, February 20th, 2026. Please note that this is an unpaid week for all school bus employees. You may, however, be eligible for unemployment benefits during this period. When applying for these benefits, it's crucial to remember that you should not contact the unemployment office until Sunday, February 22nd, 2026. Reaching out earlier will result in a claim for the previous week, during which you received pay. The full non-guaranteed weeks memo is available in driver rooms at all locations or on My Parking Space under Notifications > Forms > 2025–2026 Non-Guaranteed Weeks, where you can confirm your guaranteed compensation weeks. Reminder: Any hours worked during an unemployment week must be reported to the New York State Department of Labor. To be eligible for the mid-year bonus, you must work the full day before the break, Friday, February 13th, 2026, and the full day after the break, Monday, February 23rd, 2026.

**Important Pay Update: Union Wage Increase.** Effective January 4, 2026, all union employees received a 3.9% wage increase. This adjustment reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting our team and recognizing your hard work. The increase will be reflected in paychecks issued on January 16, 2026.



### **Congratulations to Evelyn Conde!**

Please join us in celebrating Evelyn Conde on achieving her **19-A Certification**! Earning this credential is an important accomplishment and reflects Evelyn's dedication to safety, professionalism, and excellence. In her role as a valued member of our Safety & Training team, Evelyn demonstrates a strong commitment to ensuring safe and reliable service. Evelyn, congratulations on this milestone we are proud of your hard work and excited to see your continued growth and contributions!



### **Cold Weather Reminder: Pre-Trip Inspections Matter More Than Ever.**

As temperatures drop, pre-trip inspections become even more critical for all CDL bus drivers.

### **WINTER WEATHER THOROUGH PRE-TRIP INSPECTION**

Winter conditions put extra strain on our vehicles, and a careful inspection is the best way to prevent breakdowns, delays, and safety hazards.

A quick refresher from our Safety Manuals: drivers must check for leaks, leaning, damage, slipping hazards, and verify all repairs using the DVIR before beginning the pre-trip. Using three points of contact and ensuring steps are clean and secure are essential in icy conditions.

Cold weather can weaken batteries, reduce tire pressure, and affect air systems, lights, doors, heaters, and wipers. Inspecting these items thoroughly helps keep both drivers and passengers safe and comfortable on the road. The Walk-A-Round form also helps document any pre-existing damage before leaving the yard.

Winter also means following company policies like proper idling limits and reporting any suspicious or unusual vehicle conditions before operating. Staying vigilant protects everyone.

Your attention to detail keeps our riders safe and our routes running smoothly.



Stay Connected, check us out on Facebook! Thank you to our Drivers and Driver Assistants for attending our Winter Refreshers.

