



SAFETY NEWSLETTER

THE BUS STOPS HERE



Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc. and Suffolk Bus Corp.



A Partnership in Safety

July 31, 2026

The Power of Communication in Student Transportation

Effective communication is one of the most important tools in keeping student transportation safe, dependable, and efficient. Real-time updates between drivers, dispatchers, schools, and transportation teams help everyone stay informed about delays, route changes, emergencies, and other situations that may impact students. Effective communication also supports faster incident reporting, improved response times, and a safer experience for all passengers. By prioritizing clear and consistent communication, transportation providers can strengthen safety, improve operational efficiency, and create a more connected school community.



Stay Alert, Stay Safe: Managing Driver Fatigue in Student Transportation, Paratransit, and Transit Operation.



Every day, professional drivers are responsible for transporting some of our community's most vulnerable passengers, students, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and the public. While vehicle maintenance, defensive driving, and route planning are critical to safety, one of

the most significant risks on the road is often invisible: **driver fatigue**.

The most effective way to prevent driver fatigue begins long before a vehicle is put in gear. Professional drivers should prioritize getting 7–9 hours of quality sleep each night and maintain a consistent sleep schedule, even on days off, to help their bodies stay rested and alert. Staying hydrated, eating nutritious meals, and limiting caffeine later in the day can also improve overall energy levels and sleep quality. During longer shifts, drivers should take scheduled breaks to stretch, recharge, and maintain focus behind the wheel. Equally important is managing medical conditions such as sleep apnea, diabetes, or high blood pressure, which can contribute to fatigue if left untreated.

Recognizing fatigue early and taking proactive steps to address it is one of the most important responsibilities in maintaining a safe transportation environment for passengers, coworkers, and the public.

Paratransit Employees: The Paratransit Pick will be held on August 2, 2026, at 6:30am in the classroom of the Safety & Training Center, 1780 Smithtown Avenue, Ronkonkoma. Please arrive on time and be prepared when your name is called. If you are unable to attend, please ensure proper arrangements are made in advance in accordance with company policy.

Things Only Drivers Understand

If you have ever driven a school bus, paratransit vehicle, or transit route, you know there are certain things only transportation professionals can truly appreciate. Like watching someone wave frantically at your bus from half a block away after you have already passed the stop. Or hearing, "You must have the summers off!" from someone who has never experienced training, route preparations, vehicle inspections, charters, summer programs, or the hundreds of tasks that keep transportation moving year-round.

Professional drivers also possess a unique set of superpowers. They can navigate construction zones that seem to appear overnight, spot potential hazards before anyone else notices them, and maneuver large vehicles through spaces that somehow keep getting smaller. They remember names, schedules, pickup locations, and special instructions while maintaining a calm and professional attitude under pressure.

You also know the little things that make the job special: the student who waves every morning, or the rider who says, "Thanks for getting me there safely." While every day brings something different, one thing never changes, professional drivers keep our communities moving. So the next time someone asks what you do, tell them proudly: **"I don't just drive, I help keep my community moving."**



Employees can earn a \$1,000 bonus by referring a friend or family member for a driver's position. When your referral is

hired, successfully completes onboarding, and remains assigned to a route for 60 days, you will receive your bonus.

Walk-In Resource & Hiring Locations which are all open Monday – Friday from 10am – 1pm.

- **Bay Shore:** 2309 Union Blvd.
- **Coram:** 2152 Route 112
- **Ronkonkoma:** 1780 Smithtown Ave.
- **suffolkbus.com/apply-now**



Please visit our Facebook page to learn more about Michael Maskulyak, A Team Cover Driver out of the Coram Yard.

