



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Transportation Supervisors, Coordinators, and Directors

FROM: Richard Podmore
Director of Safety, Office of Transportation

DATE: December 11, 2020

RE: 2021 School Bus Driver Appreciation Week

As a way of thanking school bus drivers statewide for their commitment to keeping students safe, The Office of Transportation for the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) invites school districts and the general public to observe **February 8-12, 2021** as School Bus Driver Appreciation Week in South Carolina.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), school buses are the safest way to get to and from school—students are 70 times more likely to get to school safely on a school bus instead of traveling in a car. Each school day in South Carolina, the families of over 750,000 students count on school bus drivers to safely transport their children. These bus drivers—whether operating a bus on a route, taking a team to a game, or driving a school group to an activity—are a critical component of the education process, and their dedication to ensuring the safety of their students often goes overlooked.

The SCDE Office of Transportation encourages parents, school districts, and other education partners to join together during School Bus Driver Appreciation Week to recognize the important role bus drivers play in the success of each student and to celebrate their impressive safety record.

Additional information about school bus safety is available from Richard Podmore, Director of Safety and Information, Office of Transportation, S.C. Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, SC, 29201, phone 803-734-8245, or email rpodmore@d.sc.gov.