

# PennDOT Honors Students For School Bus Safety Poster Contest

By Sean Brown

Harrisburg, PA – Today, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Director of the Bureau of Driver Licensing Kara Templeton joined the Pennsylvania State Police and school bus safety advocates to honor nine students for communicating important school bus safety messages through their submissions to this year's School Bus Safety Poster Contest.

The students, in kindergarten through eighth grade, were recognized for their winning entries in the 2022 School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The theme for this year's contest – "1 Bus + 1 Driver = A Big Impact on Education" – reminds everyone of the important dynamic between students and their school bus drivers, who navigate commonwealth roadways daily to deliver students to school and home without incident.

"By using their talent and creativity, these young artists help us share important safety messages through their creations," said PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian. "This year's creations reinforce the importance of school bus drivers in delivering students to and from school safely and the role they play in students' well-being every day."

This year's winners were chosen from over 400 student entries from schools across Pennsylvania. The first-place entries will be moved on to the national competition, which will be judged at the end of this month.

2022 School Bus Safety Poster Contest Winners include:

Kindergarten – Grade 2

1st Place: Lipi Kairi, Mt. Lebanon Montessori School, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

2nd Place: Ananya Sri Boddupalli, Franklin Elementary School, Sewickley, Allegheny County

3rd Place: Luke Dye, Mars Area Primary Center, Mars, Butler County

Grades 3-5

1st Place: Kashish Bhargava, Shamona Creek Elementary School, Downingtown, Chester County

2nd Place: Avery Herlocher, Sugar Valley Rural Charter School, Loganton, Clinton County

3rd Place: Abbey Hines, All Saints Catholic School, Cresson, Cambria County

Grades 6-8

1st Place: Razayah Keller, Brockway Area Jr/Sr High School, Brockway, Jefferson County

2nd Place: Peyton Seaman, East Juniata High School, McAlisterville, Juniata County

3rd Place: Kaelyn Walter, East Juniata High School, McAlisterville, Juniata County



## PennDOT Announces 'Innovations Challenge' Contest for High School Students Submission deadline is Jan. 27, 2023

By Sean Brown

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced today that students are invited to participate in the sixth annual PennDOT Innovations Challenge, which encourages students to use their problem-solving, creative and strategic-thinking abilities to solve real-world transportation challenges in a competition among their peers. The Innovations Challenge is open to all students in grades 9-12, regardless of their school's learning model.

For this year's challenge, students are asked to develop ideas to help address the shortage of commercial truck parking along major interstate corridors in Pennsylvania. Trucks parking on highway shoulders and ramps is common during overnight hours and presents a significant safety issue. As just-in-time deliveries continue to be the mainstay of global business, the demand for truck parking will continue to increase. Federal hours-of-service reg-

ulations require more down time for drivers, which translates into an increased demand for truck parking, and many local governments have strict ordinances against overnight truck parking in their communities.

The challenge asks students to select one of Pennsylvania's interstate corridors where truck parking is a known issue and develop an innovative approach to increase commercial truck parking availability in that area and offset costs incurred for construction. The solution must consider local ordinances and zoning laws for the area selected, commercial entity interaction in land development, community impact, restroom facilities, and space requirements for commercial trucks that are generally 70-80 feet long.

"Pennsylvania is a critical freight corridor, and it's important that commercial drivers have adequate safe parking along our roadway network," said PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian. "I'm excited to see the creative ideas that the students bring to

this year's challenge."

Regional Innovations Challenge winners will be selected and invited to present their solutions to the PennDOT Secretary and a panel of judges, who will determine the statewide winner. For this year's challenge, the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC) has donated \$2,500 and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) has donated \$1,500 for a combined total award of \$4,000 to the statewide winning team.

"In addition to the challenge itself, we hope that this experience will open students' minds to the possibility of a career in transportation after graduation, maybe even with PennDOT," Gramian said.

For complete Innovations Challenge details, visit [www.penndot.gov/innovation](http://www.penndot.gov/innovation) and click on Innovations Challenge. The submission deadline is Jan. 27, 2023.