



2016 CALIFORNIA'S BEST SCHOOL BUS INSPECTOR and TECHNICIAN COMPETITION South Lake Tahoe June 30 – July 1, 2016

In June at the Mechanics workshop in South Lake Tahoe, CASTO will hold its 2nd annual "CALIFORNIA'S BEST". The event recognizes school bus technicians/mechanics for the important role they play in school transportation. The competition consists of a written knowledge exam plus a "hands on" competition to determine the "Best of the Best" in California. All participants must demonstrate their proficiency and technical knowledge through "Hands-On applications. The competition was designed to be both fun and educational and to provide recognition for the individuals who contribute so much to school bus safety.

Today's technician must be capable of diagnosing, troubleshooting and repairing various mechanical components found on the modern school bus. To do this proficiently requires substantial mechanical knowledge and the ability to utilize maintenance techniques and equipment.

The CASTO member Technician and Inspector with the highest score from a combined written and "hands-on" part of the competition will be sponsored by CASTO and will represent California at the 42nd annual NAPT conference, November 4-6, 2016 in Kansas City, Missouri.

All competitors will receive a competition ID badge. This number will be used on all competition documents. You will not be required to sign or identify yourself in any way during the completion other than with the ID number you will be given.

You will also be given a time slot for your participation in the competition. You are free to attend any of the session when you are not involved in the competition.

The scoring results of the competition and written test scores will **NOT** be revealed. Only the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in both the Inspector and Technician categories will be announced. For all intents and purposes everyone else is 4th.

All standard safety practices are in effect. No open toe shoes, safety glasses when appropriate, tire wheels chocked at all times. Safety violations will result in disqualification. If the judge feels there is a safety concern, he/she may stop the competition/competitor at any time.

Technician Competitors

You will have 3 challenge stations. You will be given a maximum of 15 minutes for each station. All stations will be timed using a stop watch. When you feel you have completed the task given at each station, you will need to call out "TIME" to the judge who will then record your time. Or the Judge will stop you at the 15 minute mark. Challenge station #1 time will be used if necessary in a tie-breaker situation.

At the completion of the 3 challenge stations, you will take a 30 question written test with a 15 minute time limit.

Inspector Competitors

You will have three test stations to complete.

- Interior
- Exterior and Engine Compartment
- Undercarriage, Tires and Wheels

For each of the 3 test stations you will be given 15 minutes to complete. All stations will be timed using a stop watch. When you complete the task given at each station, you will need to call out "TIME" to the judge who will then record your time. Or the judge will stop you at the 15 minute mark. The interior inspection time will be used, if necessary in a tie-breaker situation.

During the inspections, the judge will write down all discrepancies you call out. Please be specific at to the discrepancy defect and location. This is not an "Out of Service" criteria inspection. Everything is considered a discrepancy if it is not how the manufactures built the bus new.

No part of the competition will require you to either start or move the bus.