

DCAS and NYC Public Schools Roll Out Safety Training for School Bus Drivers

By Keith T. Kerman and Destiny Fierro



The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), in partnership with the New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Office of Pupil Transportation Services (OPT) has launched a Vision Zero safety training [program](#) focused on school bus operators who transport our New York City students. The city's school buses transport up to 145,000 students each day.

The all-day training curriculum was completed in December 2025. From May 15 to June 30, 2026, DCAS and NYCPS worked together on a major training effort, with 8,123 drivers and support staff from 55 school bus companies completing the

training, mostly online, followed by an in-person close out training session on June 30 at the DCAS Training Center.

New York City Public Schools Deputy Schools Chancellor Kevin Moran and DCAS Deputy Commissioner Keith Kerman formally introduced the new training program to a group of school bus operators participating in person at DCAS. Veronica Rodriguez and Nazim Khan of DCAS Fleet conducted the session.



The training is modeled after DCAS Fleet's training for city fleet operators. Over 120,000 individuals have completed this training since the launch of Vision Zero in 2014, and over 45,000 have completed our online version since its launch in August 2020. The school bus training was our largest single training initiative yet.

While themes of care and caution are common to all driving, there are very specific risks and concerns involved with transporting school children. DCAS and NYCPS customized the training to discuss bus operations in particular and especially challenges tied to school bus design, visual obstruction, and line of sight.

The school bus operator training is one of several major safety initiatives outlined in the [School Bus Safe Fleet Transition Plan](#), announced jointly by DCAS, New York City Public Schools, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe Center in January 2024. The comprehensive plan focuses on improving both fleet operations and vehicle design to better protect students, pedestrians, cyclists, and all New Yorkers.

In addition to this training effort, the School Bus Safe Fleet Transition Plan discusses additional steps to improve safe fleet design. DCAS has installed telematics in over 10,900 school buses at 55 companies. This tracking includes speeding, seatbelt use, and hard driving and is managed at the DCAS Fleet Office of Real Time Tracking (FORT).

DCAS has also implement the nation's first pilot of intelligent speed assistance (ISA) for 50 school buses at the non-profit New York City School Bus Umbrella Services (NYCSBUS). DCAS is also testing additional technologies including surround cameras and pedestrian turn alerts. These steps and more are part of our plan to reduce fatalities and major injuries.

The school bus operator training also carries sentimental significance for DCAS Fleet. The course originated as an initiative of the late Fleet Safety Director Lenin Fierro, who developed the original PowerPoint presentation that ultimately served as the blueprint for the program that was implemented. Lenin, who was the first city employee to lose his life to COVID-19 in 2020, dedicated his career to advancing fleet safety and protecting New Yorkers. DCAS and Together for Safer Roads (TSR) recognize a fleet safety leader each year with the [Lenin Fierro Safe Advocacy award](#).

As per Deputy Chancellor Moran, "New York City Public Schools thanks DCAS and our drivers for their participation in the NYC Vision Zero training. Ongoing education and training are key to promoting safe driving behaviors and reinforcing our commitment to the safety of everyone who uses New York City's roadways."

DCAS would also like to thank all the city's school bus companies and operators for the critical work they perform in support of NYC's kids and parents. **Happy Independence Day and July 4th to all.**

The NYC School Bus Fleet: Improving Road Safety Through Technologies and Training

Andrew Breck, Ali Brodeur, Alexander Epstein, Ph.D., Eikar Lai, Ahmad Nasser, Lily Slonim, Sarah Yahoodik, Hayden Smith, Juwon Drake



Photo credit: Volpe

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