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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 31, 2018

(Release #2017/18 – 268)

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HCBOE Hosts Georgia School Bus Road-e-o June 6-7

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA –The Houston County Board of Education Transportation Department will host the annual Georgia Association for Pupil Transportation (GAPT) Safety Competition in two divisions on June 6 and 7, 2018, at McConnell-Talbert Stadium and the Cary Martin Conference Center. For the first time in Georgia, the Regular Education and Special Needs competitions will be hosted simultaneously at one site. Drivers from across the state will represent their respective school systems as they compete in the GAPT State Safety Competitions.

The Road-e-o driving competition for the Regular Education division will be held June 6 at McConnell-Talbert Stadium beginning at 9:00 a.m. For the fifth consecutive year, the driving portion of the competition will utilize propane-powered buses. Drivers will be rated by judges who train drivers across the state.

The Special Needs division consists of driver - monitor teams and will have their written and hands-on competitions at C. B. Watson Primary school on June 6 and their driving competition at the stadium on June 7. On June 7 at 10:15 a.m., the Regular Education competitors will take a written test on bus pre-trip inspection and general knowledge. Held at the Cary Martin Conference Center, the event will conclude with an awards luncheon for both divisions from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m.

The purpose of the competitions is to enhance driving skills and promote the safe transportation of Georgia's most precious cargo, our students. The top finisher in the Regular Education competition will go on to participate in the International Competition held July 22, 2018, in Philadelphia, Pa. The winning team in the Special Needs division will participate in their national competition, which will be held March 2019 in Frisco, Texas.

Hundreds of Georgia bus drivers compete at the local level for an opportunity to represent their system in this state competition. Approximately 60 regular education drivers and 20 special needs teams will compete in June.

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Participants representing Middle Georgia school systems include:

- David Lutrell and Timothy Combs from Houston County (Regular Education Division);
- Albert Freitag, Elena Martin, Emily Roberts and Brandi Hicks from Houston (Special Needs Division);
- Daniel Perry and Christina Tate from Bibb County (Regular Education Division);
- George Simmons, Dawn Waller, Matesa Williams and Quanisha Richardson from Bibb (Special Needs Division); and
- Jessica Knight and Debbie Edge from Monroe County (Special Needs Division).

Premier sponsors include: Blue Bird Corporation, Yancey Bus Sales, Peach State Freightliner, Thomas Bus Sales, Tech Pro, Rush Truck Center and IC Bus Company. McConnell-Talbert Stadium is located at 400 S. Davis Drive in Warner Robins. The Cary Martin Conference Center at the Houston Health Pavilion is located at 233 N. Houston Road in Warner Robins. For more information, please contact Troup County School's Director of Transportation and GAPT Road-e-o Chairman, Dr. Jeff Turner, at turnerjp@troup.org or 706-812-7935.

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