



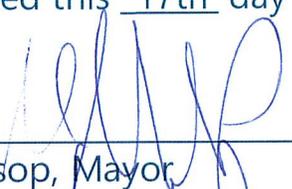
# Proclamation

- WHEREAS** school bus drivers in the City of Owatonna safely transport our community's children to and from school and activities each day, often in challenging weather and traffic conditions; and
- WHEREAS** these professional drivers are entrusted with the safety and well-being of dozens of students on every route, providing a reliable, welcoming presence that often begins and ends a student's school day; and
- WHEREAS** school bus drivers are essential partners in our local education system, helping ensure that all students can access learning opportunities regardless of their family's schedule, distance from school, or transportation resources; and
- WHEREAS** students are significantly safer riding in a school bus than in a passenger vehicle, thanks to rigorous safety standards, professional training, and ongoing student safety education; and
- WHEREAS** school bus transportation is a vital part of our community's infrastructure and the largest form of mass transit in Minnesota, supporting families, schools, and employers every day; and
- WHEREAS** the City of Owatonna wishes to recognize and thank our school bus drivers for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to student safety.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Matt Jessop, Mayor of the City of Owatonna, do hereby proclaim February 18, 2026, as

## SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

in the City of Owatonna, and encourage all residents, schools, and families to join in expressing appreciation to our school bus drivers for the important work they do.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2026.

By:   
Jessop, Mayor