

BUS DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Only employees who have the appropriate license for the vehicle operated and who have complied with the regulations of the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles, Transportation and Education may drive pupils to and from home on regularly scheduled routes. No other person may operate a school bus on a scheduled route for the purpose of transporting students to and from home.

To ensure the adequate and effective training of bus drivers, no person shall be allowed to operate a school bus without first receiving all of his/her training under the direct supervision of a State Education Department approved school bus driving instructor. While a trainee engages in preservice training, which takes place prior to a driver transporting children, no direct supervision is mandated; however, all training must be approved by a Department-approved instructor.

No one other than the abovementioned persons may drive a school owned vehicle having a pupil capacity greater than 15 passengers. School vehicles having capacities of fewer than 15 passengers may be driven by employees hired as bus drivers as well as State Education Department-certified members of the instructional staff. The latter, however, may not drive on regularly scheduled routes. State Education Department certified staff members transporting students in school owned vehicles must also comply with requirements of the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles, Transportation and Education. Only certified school bus drivers are allowed to drive buses leased to non-school organizations.

Federal and state laws require all school bus drivers to have a commercial driver's license (CDL). However, volunteer and "occasional" drivers are exempt from the CDL requirements if they drive less than 30 days a year and do not drive vehicles designed to transport 14 or more passengers.

Upon completion of the established training procedures, the school district shall verify compliance with the direct supervision requirement through the use of their recordkeeping systems.

The Board also recognizes the importance of the contact time and relationships between bus drivers and students. In regard to this, opportunities for inservice programs for staff concerning the danger signs of child abuse and neglect will be extended to include the bus driving staff.

Ref: Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act (CMVSA), 1986
Education Law §3624
Vehicle and Traffic Law, Article 19A
8 NYCRR §156.3, as amended
15 NYCRR Part 3

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