

BUS DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Only employees who have acquired the appropriate commercial drivers license (CDL) and who have complied with the regulations of the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and Education may drive students 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.

For an individual to be qualified as a school bus driver, he or she must:

- ☐ be at least 21 years of age;
- ☐ have a currently valid driver's commercial driver's license (CDL);
- ☐ pass required physical examination and physical requirements tests;
- ☐ furnish at least three statements attesting to his/her good moral character and reliability (these statements must be from three different people not related to the applicant by blood or marriage);
- ☐ not be disqualified to drive a school bus because of a conviction, violation or infraction listed in sections 509-c or 509-cc of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, or under any other provision of Article 19-A of that law; and
- ☐ meet all other licensing and training requirements for driving a school bus.

None other than the above mentioned drivers may drive a school-owned vehicle having a pupil capacity greater than 15 passengers. School vehicles having capacities of less than 15 passengers may be driven by employees hired as bus drivers as well as certified members of the instructional staff. The latter, however, may not drive on regularly scheduled routes.

All school bus driver candidates will be fingerprinted so the district can obtain any criminal record from state and federal authorities. In addition, the district will check the driving and employment records of each bus driver, in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Training on school bus safety practices and the special needs of children with disabilities will be given as required by the regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, bus drivers will be included in the in-service programs for staff concerning the detection of child abuse and neglect danger signs.

Ref: Education Law '3624
Vehicle and Traffic Law, Article 19-A
8 NYCRR ' 156.3, as amended
15 NYCRR Part 6

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