

Section: 6000 - Bus Drivers

Title : Minimum Requirements for Bus Drivers

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

The school bus driver is the most important element in the safe transportation of students. To ensure the safety of students transported on school buses, bus drivers must meet certain minimum qualifications.

License Requirement:

It is a requirement that school bus drivers remain properly licensed and certified to drive a school bus in North Carolina. This section contains important information about the commercial driver's license. Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders are required to maintain a valid CDL at all times. In addition, all school bus drivers must have a valid CDL with a P and an S endorsement. NC Charter School bus drivers are also required to carry a NC Charter School pocket card at all times when operating a school bus.

Renewals:

IT IS THE BUS DRIVER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE CDL AND SCHOOL BUS POCKET CARD ARE KEPT CURRENT. IT IS THE DRIVER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE RENEWAL WITH THE SCHOOL BUS AND TRAFFIC SAFETY OF THE DMV PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION DATE. A Pocket Card that is issued from a NC Charter School only certifies a driver to drive for NC Charter Schools with a valid CDL License. It does not allow them to drive for NC Public Schools.

Bus Driver Certification (Pocket Card) or CDL Suspension/Cancellation by Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

If TJCA-CFA is notified by DMV that a school bus driver has had his/her CDL's cancelled or suspended, the following procedure is followed:

1. The driver's pocket card will be suspended and must be turned in to the Transportation Director.
2. A thirty day suspension of driving privileges followed by a review of the overall driving record will be required before the driver's pocket card may be reissued. The thirty day suspension is the minimum penalty. In some cases, the driver may not be eligible to hold a school bus certificate for a period of at least six (6) months up to a year or indefinitely, depending on the actual infraction. In those instances, the DMV will notify the driver of when he/she may be eligible to be recertified. TJCA-CFA administration reserves the right to deny a driver a pocket card based on the driver's record.
3. If it is determined by the DMV that the suspension/cancellation was in error, the CDL holder will be reinstated and may continue driving duties.

To qualify as a school bus driver a person must:

1. Be at least 21 years of age.
2. Have a high school diploma or GED.
3. Possess a valid Class A or B with a "P" and "S" endorsements.

4. Have at least 20/40 corrected or uncorrected visual acuity in each eye.
5. Demonstrate sufficient strength, agility, hearing and visual acuity to exercise safe control over the school bus and passengers at all times.
6. Have hearing that shall not be impaired to the extent that it would interfere with the safe operation of the bus.
7. Have no known medical history or clinical diagnosis of any condition that could be detrimental to the safety of the student who will be transported.
8. Have an acceptable driving record with no convictions deemed disqualifying under the North Carolina Commercial Drivers License Law.
9. Must be insurable by the current insurance.
10. Not use illegal controlled substances or engage in the illegal use of prescription drugs.
11. Have a satisfactory employment record.
12. Pass a background check.
13. Pass a pre-employment drug test and participate in random testing.
14. NC Charter School bus drivers are also required to carry a NC Charter School pocket card at all times when operating a school bus.