

**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 pupils 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 department-approved school bus driving instructor. While a trainee engages in pre-service training which takes place prior to a driver transporting children, no direct supervision is mandated; however, all training must be approved by a New York State Education Department approved instructor.

None other than the above-mentioned persons may drive a school-owned vehicle having a pupil capacity greater than fifteen (15) passengers. School vehicles having capacities of fewer than fifteen (15) passengers may be driven by employees hired as bus drivers as well as New York State Education Department certified members of the instructional staff. The latter, however, may not drive on regularly scheduled routes. New York State Education Department certified staff members transporting students in school-owned vehicles must also comply with Regulations of the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles, Transportation and Education.

By April 1, 1992, or upon the expiration date of their current license if earlier, all school bus drivers must acquire the appropriate Commercial Drivers' License pursuant to New York State Law. Volunteer bus drivers who operate a bus designed to carry fourteen (14) or fewer passengers and drive less than thirty (30) days per year are exempt from this (CDL) requirement. Such drivers may not drive regularly scheduled routes.

Upon completion of the established training procedures, the District shall verify compliance with the direct supervision requirement through the use of a record-keeping system. Prior to June 30, 1991, should the District need to delay implementation of the direct supervisory training requirement, the New York State Education Department shall review the District's request. To accommodate a school district who has submitted a justified request, the New York State Education Department may grant a one-year hardship period to any school district.

The Board also recognizes the importance of the contact time and relationships between bus drivers and students. In regard to this, opportunities for in-service programs for staff concerning child abuse, anti-bullying, Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), and neglecting danger signs shall be extended to include the bus driving staff.

Reference: Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act (CMVSA), 1986  
49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 40, 382, 391, 392 and 395  
Education Law § 3624  
Vehicle and Traffic Law §§ 509-c, 509-cc and Article 19-A  
8 NYCRR § 156.3  
15 NYCRR Part 3 and Part 6

Revised: April 19, 2016