

NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

8180

Driver Training and Responsibility

This policy shall apply to all bus drivers, including substitute and activity bus drivers.

The District and its school bus drivers shall meet all operations and performance requirements in conformity with law and with the rules and regulations of the Department of Law Enforcement and the State Board of Education.

Bus drivers shall observe all State statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and school bus operation. The District shall, at the beginning of each school year, provide each driver with a copy of the District's written rules for bus drivers and for student conduct on buses.

Bus drivers shall establish proper rapport with students. Drivers should be aware that they represent the District and should present a positive image in dress, language, and manner.

Each bus driver shall meet the qualifications established by the State Department of Education, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Be over 18 years of age;
2. Be of good moral character;
3. Not be addicted to the use of intoxicants or narcotics;
4. Possess a valid and appropriate commercial driver's license and other endorsements required by law, and, if applicable, a waiver for insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus issued by the State Department of Education; and
5. Be medically qualified under the physical examination standards of the federal motor carrier safety regulations; provided, however, that individuals with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, who are otherwise medically qualified under the physical examination standards of the federal motor carrier safety regulations, may request a waiver for this condition from the State Department of Education as provided in Idaho Code § 33-1509.

Each bus driver shall also have completed a basic first aid course within the last three years.

Each bus driver is responsible for the safety of their passengers, particularly for those who cross a roadway before or after leaving the bus. No bus driver shall order or allow a student to disembark at other than his or her customary boarding or alighting place without a written authorization from the child's parent or guardian.

When a teacher, coach, or other certified staff member is assigned to accompany students on a bus, such person shall be primarily responsible for the behavior of the students in their charge. The bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility for the bus. The Superintendent shall establish written procedures for bus drivers.

Training

New Bus Drivers: All new school bus drivers shall complete a school bus training program previously approved by the Superintendent and or the transportation director. They must also pass all knowledge tests contained in the State Department of Education school bus driver classroom curriculum. New bus drivers shall also complete ten hours of practical training in a school bus, including at least six hours of behind the wheel training.

Each new driver shall perform an emergency evacuation practical and receive a driver evaluation before being allowed to drive a school bus loaded with students.

The District may choose to make use of the classroom and behind-the-wheel training methods and resources developed by the State Department of Education.

Experienced Drivers: All experienced school bus drivers shall complete at least ten hours refresher school bus driver training each fiscal year; at least three hours of pre-service training shall be completed before school begins in the fall. Experienced drivers must also attend at least three in-service training sessions during the school year. These sessions must include topic specific training blocks of at least 30 minutes. The District shall document that each experienced driver has attended these sessions.

Drivers with Experience with a Previous Employer: Upon hiring a driver with previous experience, the District or the transportation provider it contracts with shall request documentation of all of their previous school bus driver training and driving experience, in accordance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Commercial Driver's License licensing requirements.

Documented previous training that is similar to the requirements for new bus drivers described above may be substituted for new school bus driver training hours. Regardless of any previous training, all newly hired school bus drivers shall have sufficient training provided by the District or contractor, along with accompanying documentation, to illustrate they are proficient in school bus driving skills.

If a newly-hired driver has a gap of more than four years in their ongoing school bus driving experience, the individual shall complete the training requirements for new school bus drivers. If the District or contractor is unable to obtain documentation of previous school bus driver training, the driver shall complete the training requirements for new school bus drivers.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-1508 Operation of School Buses
I.C. § 33-1509 School Bus Drivers – Definition – Qualification – Duties
I.C. § 49-105 Definition - Drivers Licenses
IDAPA 08.02.02.170 School Bus Drivers and Vehicle Operation
FMCSA 382.105

Other Reference: Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations
Idaho's School Bus Drivers Training - Classroom Curriculum
Idaho's School Bus Drivers Training - Behind the Wheel Curriculum

Policy History:

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