

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Driver Training and Responsibility

All district 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, verify that each school bus driver has been provided a copy of the School Bus Driver Handbook (SPI), any additional laws and/or rules which apply to school bus drivers, and the district's written rules for student conduct on buses.

Prior to transporting students, each school bus driver must have a school bus driver's authorization issued by the superintendent of public instruction; a commercial drivers license appropriate for the size vehicle they will drive, including a passenger endorsement; and a school bus endorsement (with the air brake restriction removed if they drive a bus with air brakes). A school bus driver shall also hold a valid and current first aid (unless the driver has a temporary school bus driver authorization). A school bus driver is required to maintain and carry a valid Department of Transportation (DOT) medical examiners certificate, complete a disclosure statement and to demonstrate annually their continued ability to pass the Superintendent of Public Instruction school bus driver physical certification requirement. The school district retains the right to request more frequent medical examinations or demonstration of the physical ability requirements of WAC 392-144.

Prior to employment and at least once each school year, school bus drivers must submit to his or her supervisor a photocopy of the following: a valid commercial driver's license indicating the appropriate endorsements, a DOT medical examiners certificate, and a current first aid card. On an annual basis, each school bus driver shall provide verification that he or she continues to meet the requirements of WAC 392-144 and verification that his or her driving or criminal record does not indicate any disqualifying conditions as listed in WAC 392-144-103 including: not having had a driving license privilege disqualified, suspended, or revoked in the preceding three years, that he or she has not had three or more speeding tickets including driving too fast for conditions, hit and run driving, vehicular homicide, driving while intoxicated, being in physical control of a vehicle while intoxicated, negligent driving in the first degree, any motor vehicle violation agreed to during a court proceeding as a result of an alcohol related driving infraction in the preceding five years, and that he or she has not been convicted or undergone a deferred prosecution for any misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony. Employees are responsible for reporting any potentially disqualifying offenses to the school district or their supervisor within 20 days.

The district is required to conduct a pre-employment drug screening test pursuant to CFR 49.382. The school district shall verify a negative result of such test prior to allowing the

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driver to operate a school bus on public roads, regardless of whether there are students on the bus. The district shall comply with the other drug testing requirements under Federal law, which includes random, reasonable suspicion, and post-accident testing. Failure to submit to a drug test shall result in termination.

Any district employee, other than a school bus driver, who transports students for school activities in a district or private vehicle, must have a valid driver's license issued by the state department of licensing (or their state of residence), and proof of insurance. Such drivers may only operate vehicles with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of ten or less. Such drivers are required to be authorized school bus drivers if they drive students on scheduled routes between home and school.

In addition, for any employees whose job assignment or supplemental contract requires the regularly scheduled transportation of students in vehicles with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of ten or fewer, the district shall obtain an abstract online of the driving record of the employee before the employee transports students. This requirement is not necessary for persons transporting students in an emergency affecting health and/or safety.

When a teacher, coach or other certificated staff member is assigned to accompany students on a bus, such person shall have primary responsibility for the behavior of the students in his/her charge and shall ensure that student behavior complies with district policy. The bus driver will shall have final authority and responsibility for issues of safety and appropriate bus conduct.

When the district utilizes charter buses or excursion carriers, the driver shall not have unsupervised access to children and children shall be supervised by a responsible employee of the district. Every contract between the school district and a charter bus or excursion carrier shall contain a carrier profile from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission indicating a satisfactory safety rating prior to booking a trip.

Legal Reference:	RCW	28A.160.210	School Bus Drivers, training and qualifications - Rules & Regulations For
		<u>46.25</u>	Uniform Commercial Drivers Act
	WAC	392-144	School Bus Driver Qualifications
		392-145-015	General Operating Regulations
		392-145-020	Rules for school bus drivers; Rules for
		through 030	students riding school buses

Adopted: September 9, 1992
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