

BUS DRIVER REQUIREMENTS, TRAINING, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.0 School Bus Drivers: The school bus driver is responsible for safeguarding the lives of children in performance of his/her duty. The work requires physical strength, mental poise, the ability to cope effectively with emergencies, excellent driving skills, and an ability to relate positively with students.
 - 1.1. All school bus drivers must hold a valid school bus operator license endorsement issued by the Maine Secretary of State.
 - 1.2. All bus drivers are required to have an annual background check through the Department of Education.
 - 1.3. All drivers are required to participate in any in-service training provided by the school department.
 - 1.4. Annual Medical Examination: All drivers operating a vehicle designed to carry ten or more passengers must undergo an annual physical examination as required by the Uniform School Bus Standards and submit the completed School Bus Driver Physical Examination Form to the Superintendent/designee. Physical examinations will be conducted by a physician selected by the school unit and paid for by the school unit.
 - 1.4.a If a driver wishes to select a different physician, the physician selected by the driver must be approved in advance by the Superintendent/designee and the examination will be conducted at the driver's own expense.
 - 1.4.b Annual examinations must be completed during the month preceding the start of the school year for regular drivers. New and substitute bus drivers must complete the examination before beginning their driving duties.
 - 1.5. Drug and Alcohol Testing: School bus drivers will participate in drug and alcohol testing as required by applicable federal and state laws.
 - 1.6. Annual Motor Vehicle Records Check: Each school bus driver operating a vehicle carrying ten or more passengers will undergo an annual state motor vehicle records check.
- 2.0. Other Employees with Student Driving Responsibilities: The Superintendent/designee is directed to obtain annual motor vehicle records checks for any school employee who transports students as part of their regular duties.
 - 2.1. The Board authorizes the Superintendent/designee to develop and implement acceptable regulations and procedures, detailing all other duties and responsibilities, as they relate to the daily functions of the bus drivers and their effective management of student transportation while students are in our vehicles.

Legal Reference: 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382
26 MRSA §§ 681(8)(B); 685(2); 689

Uniform School Bus Standards, 081.6

Cross Reference: EEAEA-R – Bus Driver Duties and Responsibilities
EEAEAA – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Bus Drivers
EEAEAA-R – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Bus Drivers – Regulations

Adopted: November 17, 1983

Revised: October 30, 2013