

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

Bus Drivers

The Superintendent, or designee, shall approve all bus drivers and drivers of school transportation vehicles (STVs) that carry ten or fewer students annually and/or upon initial employment following certification by the bus contractor that each driver is in all respects qualified to drive a school bus. Drivers shall also be subject to an alcohol and drug testing program.

If necessary, the Superintendent or designee may remove a driver from his/her assignment through notification of the bus contractor that a particular driver or particular drivers may no longer drive in the district and shall report the action to the Board of Education.

An operator's license bearing one or more endorsements ("V" endorsement or "A" endorsement, or "F" endorsement) must be held by any person operating an "activity vehicle." A motor vehicle operator's license endorsement is not required to be held by a parent or other volunteer who transports one or more students in connection with a school-sponsored event or activity. **Incidental, unplanned, and/or emergency** operation of a motor vehicle by a paid teacher, coach, or other school employee or agent to transport students does not require the operator to hold an operator's license endorsement. (*The vehicle does not meet the statutory definition of an "activity vehicle."*) An operator's license bearing one or more appropriate endorsements must be held by any person who does not fall under the definition of "carrier" but who transports students in a service bus.

Any school bus driver or STV driver who tests positive for drugs shall be prohibited for a two year period from employment as a driver after the first positive test and shall be permanently barred after a second such test.

All drivers, prior to employment, shall be subject to state and national criminal history checks. The school district and/or the school district's contractor shall review at least twice monthly information provided by the DMV Commissioner regarding the withdrawal, suspension or revocation of the licenses of drivers.

The Superintendent or designee shall require each regular driver to participate annually in a locally implemented first aid seminar of at least three hours duration. Whenever practical, substitute drivers shall also be required to participate in such training.

If necessary, the Superintendent, or designee, may remove a driver from their assignment by notification to the Student Transportation Services Contractor that a particular driver's eligibility has been revoked pursuant to this policy.

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

Bus Drivers (continued)

Definitions:

Activity Vehicle: A student transportation vehicle that is used to transport students in connection with school-sponsored events and activities, but is not used to transport students to and from school. (A motor vehicle operated by a parent or other volunteer to transport students in connection with a school-sponsored event or activity is not an activity vehicle.)

Student Transportation Vehicle: Any motor vehicle, other than a registered school bus, used by a carrier for the transportation of students, including children requiring special education.

Carrier: Any local or regional school district, any educational institution providing elementary or secondary education, or any person, firm, or corporation under contract to such district or institution engaged in the business of transporting school children; any person, firm, or corporation providing transportation for compensation exclusively to persons under the age of twenty-one; or any corporation, institution, or nonprofit organization providing transportation as an ancillary service primarily to persons under the age of eighteen years.

(cf. 4212.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-220 Duties of boards of education
 14-261b Drug and alcohol testing of drivers of certain vehicles, mechanics and forklift operators.
 14-276 Licensing of school bus operators. Names of suspended or revoked licenses furnished upon request.
 14-276a Regulations re school bus operators and operators of student transportation vehicles; qualification; training
 14-277 Operator’s duties on stopping bus
 14-279 Vehicles to stop for school bus. Penalties. Written warning or summons.
 PA 07-224 An Act Concerning Operator’s Licenses Bearing a School Bus Endorsement.
 14-1(i) Motor vehicles: definitions.
 14-212 (8) Definitions - “Student transportation vehicle.”
 Declaratory Ruling, Nov. 16, 2007 - Robert M. Ward, Commissioner, DMV

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MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Marlborough, Connecticut