The Post Falls School District and its 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 Idaho State Board of Education.

Bus drivers shall observe all state statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and 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 Idaho 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 Idaho Department of Education;
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; and
6. Meet all requirements necessary to remain in "good standing" with the insurance company of the district.

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 his/her charge. The bus driver shall have final authority and responsibility for the bus. The superintendent or designee shall establish written procedures for bus drivers.

<u>Training</u>

New Bus Drivers: All new bus drivers shall complete a school bus training program previously approved by the Director of Transportation. They must also pass all knowledge tests contained in the Idaho Department of Education school bus driver classroom curriculum. New bus drivers shall also complete ten (10) hours of practical training in a school bus, including at least six (6) 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 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 Idaho Department of Education.

Experienced Drivers: All experienced bus drivers shall complete at least ten (10) hours of refresher school bus driver training each fiscal year; at least three (3) hours of pre-service training shall be completed before school begins in the fall. Experienced drivers must also attend at least three (3) in-service training sessions during the school year. These sessions must include topic specific training blocks of at least thirty (30) minutes. The district shall document each experienced driver has attended these sessions.

Drivers with Experience with a Previous Employer: Upon hiring a driver with previous experience, the district shall request documentation of all of previous school bus driver training and driving experience, in accordance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Commercial Driver's Model Board Policy Manual ISBA Policy Management Console 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 bus drivers shall have sufficient training provided by the district, 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 (4) years in their ongoing school bus driving experience, the individual shall complete the training requirements for new school bus drivers. If the district 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, I.C. § 33-1509, IDAPA 08.02.02.170
I.C. § 49-105
FMCSA 382.105
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