

8600.02 - REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

(1) To ensure the safety of all students transported by school bus, it is the responsibility of the District to ensure that only qualified individuals are employed in the capacity of school bus driver. Accordingly, each school bus driver must meet the qualifications and perform the responsibilities prescribed by statute and regulation.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS

(a) Experience and Background.

1. At the time of initial employment, the District shall ensure that an applicant for a school bus driver position has five (5) years of licensed driving experience and otherwise meets the hiring criteria of Policies 4120, 4121 and 4121.01, which includes a criminal background check.

2. Prior to transporting students on a school bus, each school bus driver must meet the following requirements:

a. Hold a valid commercial driver's license with a passenger endorsement and a school bus endorsement.

b. Successfully complete forty (40) hours of pre-service training consisting of at least twenty (20) hours of classroom instruction and eight (8) hours of behind-the-wheel training based upon the Department of Education's Basic School Bus Operator Curriculum, Revised 2006.

c. Demonstrate the ability to prepare required written reports.

3. The District shall obtain a driver's history record from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for each regular school bus driver, substitute driver, or any other individual certified to drive a school bus by the district and shall review such records in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

(b) Physical and Medical Qualifications.

1. A school bus driver must demonstrate physical and mental capabilities required to carry out all assigned responsibilities as a school bus driver. A physician designated by the District shall determine the physical and mental capabilities of the bus driver based upon a physical examination. Form ESE 479, Physical Examination for School Bus Driver and Medical Examiners Certificate, as adopted by State Board Rule, shall be used for recording the results of the physical examination. A dexterity test shall also be administered by the District.

2. The costs of the physical examination shall be paid by the District.

3. It is the bus driver's duty and responsibility to accurately and honestly complete the health history portion of Form ESE 479, and failure to do so shall constitute grounds for termination.

4. The physical standards established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall be applicable to all school bus drivers within the state.

5. In the event that the District's designated medical examiner determines that the school bus driver is not physically or mentally fit to pass the medical examination, the school bus driver may obtain a second opinion from a qualified medical examiner chosen from a list of approved medical examiners maintained by the District. The bus driver will be responsible for any co-pay or other costs associated with the second opinion. In the event that there is a conflict in opinions between the two medical examiners, the conflict shall be resolved as follows:

a. A third medical examiner will be chosen by the two (2) medical examiners in disagreement who shall be a licensed physician specializing in the field of medicine related to the condition(s) in question.

b. The third physician shall be given copies of both medical examiners' forms and the test results upon which the findings are based, and a complete description of the requirements of the bus driver's responsibilities.

c. The third physician shall conduct any applicable tests as are necessary.

d. The findings of the third physician shall be the basis of determination of fitness for duty.

e. The costs incurred to obtain the opinion of the third physician shall be the responsibility of the bus driver.

(3) SCHOOL BUS DRIVER HANDBOOK: Each bus driver shall adhere to the ~~rules and~~ procedures described in the School Bus Driver Handbook maintained by the Transportation Department, ~~adopted~~

~~April 26, 2011 and amended October 23, 2012 and January 29, 2013, which is incorporated herein by reference.~~ The handbook establishes additional guidelines to implement the statutes, regulations, and policies pertaining to the transportation of students.

F.S. 1012.45, 1006.22
6A-3.0141, 6A-3.0151, 6A-3.0171
49 C.F.R. Sections 391.41 and 391.43

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Approved as to form and legality



School Board Attorney