

BUS DRIVER EXAMINATION AND TRAINING

License Requirements:

In addition to either a valid Class 1 or Class 2 Massachusetts Operator's License, a school bus driver must have one of the following:

1. A school bus operator's license issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles; or
2. An unrestricted Department of Public Utilities License, providing that the operator is subject to an annual physical examination in accordance with the regulations of the carrier employing such person.

Persons applying for their first school bus operator's license must have:

1. Either a valid Class 1 or Class 2 Massachusetts Operator's License; or
2. A valid Massachusetts Operator's License other than Class 1 or Class 2 and also a valid Class 1 or Class 2 Massachusetts Learner's Permit.

Persons operating on a three-day emergency permit must have either a valid Class 1 or Class 2 Massachusetts Operator's License.

Test Requirements and Procedure:

To drive a school bus, a person must have special licenses, special training and examinations, and must keep his/her credentials up to date. The following outline shows the process in becoming a bus driver and specifies yearly test and training requirements.

1. Application
2. Interview (if selected, must apply for Class 2 License and Learner's Permit as below).
3. Application to Registry of Motor Vehicles for examination for a Class 2 License Learner's Permit.
4. After receiving the Class 2 License Learner's Permit, the appointee will go to the school doctor for a physical examination. A report of this examination will be sent to the Department of Public Utilities.
5. Appointee will take the DPU road test on a regular school bus and will receive a DPU license. This must be renewed annually before January 1 through submission of a physical examination report to the DPU.
6. Between the time of application and receiving the DPU license, the applicant will ride on buses with different drivers to observe how they deal with the students and to learn the streets of the City of Westfield. They receive training pay for this period.
7. Each driver will be given a course by the fire department on how to put out a fire on the bus and how to extinguish a gasoline fire with a fire extinguisher, which each bus carriers.
8. Drivers are also required to complete a standard course of instruction in first aid to the injured.
9. Refresher courses in fire training, first aid training, and safety training are given twice a year on teachers' workshop days, as arranged by the transportation coordinator.

Established by law