

Comparison of School Bus Driver Training Requirements

STATE	CLASSROOM (Hours) Original / Pre-service	BEHIND THE WHEEL (Hours) (B-T-W)	TOTAL COMBINED HOURS REQUIRED	RENEWAL TRAINING IN-SERVICE (Hours)
Alabama	12	4 (Before enrollment in the S.B. Driver Certificate Class)	16	4 Annually: Recertification Class
Alaska	10 (minimum)	Unknown	10 (minimum)	Unknown
Arizona	14	20	34	6 ½ Classroom (Every 24 months)
Arkansas	Unknown	24	24 (minimum)	3 Annually: In-service
California	20 (minimum)	20 (minimum)	40 (minimum)	10 Annually: In-service 10 Classroom Inst. In the renewal year (every 5 years)
Colorado	Hours not specified; New operators must be provided with a pre-service training program that includes training and written tests.			6: & CDE Written Test & B-T-W Performance Test Annually
Connecticut	5	5	10	6 Annually
Delaware	12	6 (at least 2 hrs with students)	18	Unknown
Florida	20 (Minimum)	8 (minimum)	40 <i>*See below</i>	8 Annually (In-service)
* Florida requires a total of 40 hours of preservice training: A minimum of 20 hours of classroom and a minimum of 8 hrs of B-T-W training. Additional training where needed to bring the total to 40. *				
Georgia	12	12	24	Drivers should be evaluated annually
Hawaii	Number of hours not specified. Must receive instruction on rules and laws and must satisfactorily operate a bus (under supervision) on a regular bus route.			8 Annually
Idaho	Classroom and B-T-W training vary from district to district. One district showed 40-60 hrs and one showed 60-100 hrs.		40 (minimum)	10 Annually: In-service
Illinois	Initial Classroom Course	Sufficient Training	Unknown (Hours not specified)	2 Annually: Refresher Course
Indiana	20	12 (4 observing a certified driver; 8 BTW Training)	32	Annual safety meeting: Hours not specified
Iowa	12 + 3 (current yr training class)	Unknown	15	3 Annual Training Class
Kansas	Unknown hours; must complete a Vehicle Accident Prevention Course	12 (6 without students, the remaining 6 can be with students)	Unknown	Accident Prevention Course every 3 years, or attend annual workshops
Kentucky	Unknown Number of hours: New drivers are to complete a Training Course and three driver review, evaluation, and instruction components			8 Annually: Training Update
Louisiana	30	10	40	8 Biannually: In-service

STATE	CLASSROOM (HOURS) Original / Pre-service	BEHIND THE WHEEL (Hours) (B-T-W)	TOTAL COMBINED HOURS REQUIRED	RENEWAL TRAINING IN-SERVICE (Hours)
Maine	Maine requires a physical, background check and the required licenses (issued by the <i>Bureau of Motor Vehicles</i>) to drive a school bus. There are no Original or annual training requirements for school bus drivers. However, they are in the process of adopting new regulations that would require specific training to drive a school bus.			
Maryland	6 (Minimum)	9 (Minimum)	15 (Minimum)	6 Annually: In-service
Massachusetts	16	20	36	8 Annually: In-service
Michigan	Hours not stated: Successful completion of the Beginning School Bus Driver Training Program			6 Biannually: Supervisory Continuing Education
Minnesota	Hours not stated: Drivers must demonstrate sufficient driving skills and knowledge to transport students in a safe and legal manner. Annual training by employer required.			
Mississippi	Hours not stated. Must receive SDE bus driver certification during a one-day training course which includes classroom instruction, agility testing and behind-the-wheel driving.			2 Annually: In-service
Missouri	Hours not stated: Comprehensive school bus driver training program for both pre-service and in-service instruction which includes classroom and behind the wheel instruction.			8 Annually
Montana	Hours Not Stated: Completion of a basic course from an authorized instructor.			Unknown
Nebraska	10	2 Training & Evaluation	12	2 Every four years: Must pass DMV test annually
Nevada	Hours Not stated	40	40 + Classroom Instruction	10 Annually: In-service
New Hampshire	10	Hours not stated	10 + B-T-W Pre-service training	8 Annually: In-service
New Jersey	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
New Mexico	8 Classroom	6 (+ 6 observing a driver on a regular route or a trainee driving under a certified trainer's supervision)	20 + <u>Additional Training Required Within 60 days of employment:</u> 8 hrs CPR/First Aid, and 8 hrs defensive driving course 36 Hours Total	16 Annually: In-service
New York	2 Hours Pre-Service Training: Within one year must receive the Basic Course of Instruction for School Bus Drivers. At least 2 additional hours for drivers exclusively transporting pupils with disabilities.			Unknown
North Carolina	3-Day Instruction Course	Hours Not Stated	Unknown	Unknown
North Dakota	Hours not stated: Adequate Instruction required: DD4 Workshop required within 1 year of employment.			Workshops Annually and DD4 Workshop every 5 years
Ohio	15 (minimum)	12 (minimum)	27 (minimum)	4 Annually: 9 Renewal (every 6 yrs)

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Oklahoma	24	Unknown	24	4 Annually
Oregon	Unknown (Core Course)	15 (minimum)	15 (+ Core Course)	8 Annually: Inservice
Pennsylvania	14	6	20	10 Refresher every four years (7 Classroom: 3 In-Bus Instruction)
Rhode Island	10	Unknown	10 (Must pass driving test and Pre-Trip Inspection)	Unknown
South Carolina	20	5 (2 driving; 3 observing)	25	10 Annually: Inservice
South Dakota	2 (minimum)	2 (minimum)	4 (minimum)	4 Annually: Classroom and or B-T-W
Tennessee	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	4 Annually
Texas	20 Certification Course	Unknown	20 (minimum)	8 Every three years: Re-certification
Utah	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	4 Classes & 2 B-T-W: Annually
Vermont	Hours not stated: Must attend a School Bus Driver Training Clinic			S.B. Driver Clinic or Defensive Driving Course
Virginia	11-17 Pre-Service (Time Recommendation for six units)	Unknown (Six Units)	Unknown	4 Annually
Washington	Hours not stated: Must attend a School Bus Driver Training Course			Annual Inservice Training Course
West Virginia	30	6	36	12 Annually: Professional Development
Wisconsin	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Wyoming	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

The information in this chart was obtained through various publications found on the internet and through e-mails, and is current as of September, 2009. All information may not be accurate, however, every effort was made to ensure its' accuracy. This chart is for comparison purposes only and should not be used to determine the actual training requirements to obtain or retain a license or certificate to operate a school bus. Please check with your local authority, agency, or school district to receive complete and accurate information for your state of residency. If any of this information is found to be inaccurate, or if you can provide additional information for areas on this chart marked as "unknown", please send an e-mail to adamsd@gfusd.net so the necessary changes may be made.

Thank you.