

Vallivue School District 139

“Driver” means any person operating a school bus owned or operated by the district while transporting students to or from school or approved school activities. This includes full-time, regularly employed drivers; casual, or substitute drivers; leased drivers and independent owner-operator contractors.

The board of trustees will employ drivers only upon written application approved by the State Department of Education. Applicants must be over the age of eighteen (18), of good moral character, and not addicted to the use of intoxicants or narcotics. Persons or entities which provide student transportation services under contract with the district are required to supply the same information as required of school bus driver applicants.

A driver will be subject to the physical examination standards of the federal motor carrier safety regulations.

All new school bus drivers will complete a prior-approved school bus driver training program, which shall include documented knowledge and skill tests, as well as ten (10) inclusive hours of behind-the-wheel and/or route observation, before being allowed to drive a school bus loaded with students. As a support to school district personnel, the State Department of Education shall develop and maintain model classroom and behind the-wheel training curricula incorporating nationally recognized driver training methods and resources.

All experienced school bus drivers will complete at least ten (10) hours refresher school bus drive training each fiscal school year. At least three (3) hours of pre-service training shall be provided before school begins in the fall. In addition, at least three (3) in-service training sessions shall be provided during the school year utilizing, at a minimum, thirty (3) minute, topic specific and documented training blocks.

School districts shall request documentation of all previous school bus driver training and driving experience, in accordance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration CDL licensing requirements. Documentation of previous training, similar to State Board of Education training requirements, may be used to comply with new school bus driver training hours. Regardless of any previous out-of-district training, all newly hired school bus drivers shall have sufficient training provided by the hiring district or contractor, along with accompanying documentation, illustrating proficient school bus driving skills. If the district is unable to obtain documentation of previous school bus driver training, the individual shall complete the training requirements for new school bus drivers. If the applicant has gaps in excess of four years of ongoing school bus driving experience, the individual shall complete the training requirements for new school bus drivers.

While operating a school bus, a school bus driver must, at all times, be in the possession of a current commercial driver’s license (CDL) including endorsements as specified in Idaho Code Section 49-105. The permit must be in a form approved by the State Department of Education and must be carried on the driver’s person or prominently displayed at all times that the driver is operating any school bus carrying students. The board, after a hearing and for cause, may revoke a driver’s permit.



LEGAL REFERENCE: Idaho Code Sections 33-1508; 33-1509; 33-1511; 49-105

Pupil Transportation Manual, Idaho State Department of Education, revised 1996 and all subsequent revisions.

ADOPTED: 3/10/2009 new as policy

AMENDED: