

An optional policy to consider.

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

Drivers

The Superintendent or designee shall approve all bus drivers and drivers of school transportation vehicles (STVs) that carry ten or fewer students annually and/or upon initial employment following verification that each driver is in all respects qualified to operate a school bus. Only drivers approved in advance in writing may operate vehicles for the District. The Student Transportation Services Contractor shall provide notice to the Superintendent in writing at least 24 hours prior to effecting any change of driver on any route.

Each driver shall have an annual physical examination, including a TB test, shall hold all appropriate licenses, and shall have a State Police clearance before being deemed eligible to transport students. Drivers shall also be subject to an alcohol and drug testing program. Documentation in support of compliance shall be filed with the Superintendent or his/her designee prior to the first day of school, or within 30 days of employment.

An operator's license bearing one or more endorsements ("V" endorsement or "A" endorsement or commercial driver's license bearing an "S" endorsement) must be held by any person operating an "activity vehicle." A motor vehicle operator's license endorsement is not required to be held by a parent or other volunteer who transports one or more students in connection with a school-sponsored event or activity. **Incidental, unplanned, and/or emergency** operation of a motor vehicle by a paid teacher, coach, or other school employee or agent to transport students does not require the operator to hold an operator's license endorsement. (*The vehicle does not meet the statutory definition of an "activity vehicle."*) An operator's license bearing one or more appropriate endorsements must be held by any person who does not fall under the definition of "carrier" but who transports students in a service bus.

Any school bus driver or STV driver who tests positive for drugs shall be prohibited for a two year period from employment as a driver after the first positive test and shall be permanently barred after a second such test.

All drivers, prior to employment, shall be subject to state and national criminal history checks. The school district and/or the school district's contractor shall review at least twice monthly information provided by the DMV Commissioner regarding the withdrawal, suspension or revocation of the licenses of drivers.

The Superintendent or designee shall require each regular driver to participate annually in a locally implemented first aid seminar of at least three hours duration. Whenever practical, substitute drivers shall also be required to participate in such training.

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Transportation

Drivers (continued)

If necessary, the Superintendent, or designee, may remove a driver from their assignment by notification to the Student Transportation Services Contractor that a particular driver's eligibility has been revoked pursuant to this policy.

Definitions:

Activity Vehicle: A student transportation vehicle that is used to transport students in connection with school-sponsored events and activities, but is not used to transport students to and from school. (A motor vehicle operated by a parent or other volunteer to transport students in connection with a school-sponsored event or activity is not an activity vehicle.)

Student Transportation Vehicle: Any motor vehicle, other than a registered school bus, used by a carrier for the transportation of students, including children requiring special education.

Carrier: Any local or regional school district, any educational institution providing elementary or secondary education, or any person, firm, or corporation under contract to such district or institution engaged in the business of transporting school children; any person, firm, or corporation providing transportation for compensation exclusively to persons under the age of twenty-one; or any corporation, institution, or nonprofit organization providing transportation as an ancillary service primarily to persons under the age of eighteen years.

(cf. 3541.23 – Bus Contractor Compliance)

(cf. 4212.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 14-1(i) Motor vehicles: definitions.
 14-212 (8) Definitions - "Student transportation vehicle."
 14-212 (2) Definitions - "Carrier."
 14-261b Drug and alcohol testing of drivers of certain vehicles, mechanics and forklift operators.
 14-276 to 14-279 re: school bus operators et. al.
 PA 07-224 An Act Concerning Operator's Licenses Bearing a School Bus Endorsement.
 Declaratory Ruling, Nov. 16, 2007 - Robert M. Ward, Commissioner, DMV
 2717 Alcohol and controlled substances testing (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)

Policy adopted: