

6A-3.0141 Employment of School Bus Operators.

(1)(a) School bus operators are defined as any persons employed or contracted ~~by~~ to the school district to transport prekindergarten through grade 12 students in school buses as defined in Section 1006.25, F.S., or any vehicle with a seating capacity of 11 or more including the driver.

(b) Alternate vehicle operators are defined as any persons employed or contracted by the school district to transport prekindergarten through grade 12 students in vehicles that are not defined as school buses with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer, including the driver, as described in paragraph 6A-3.0171(1)(e), F.A.C.

(2) At the time of initial employment, the school board shall ~~ensure~~ assure that the operator of a school bus meets the following requirements:

(a) ~~Have~~ Has five (5) years of licensed driving experience.

(b) ~~Have~~ Has submitted to the superintendent or designee a written application for employment in a form prescribed by the school board (Does not apply to contracted transportation providers).

(c) ~~Have~~ Has filed a set of fingerprints for the purpose of the required background check for determining criminal record.

(3) Prior to transporting students on a school bus, each operator employed or contracted by the district shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Hold a valid driver's license for the respective weight class of the bus that will be operated. A Class E driver's license without endorsements is required for school buses and multifunction school activity buses (MFSABs) with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,000 pounds or less with a seating capacity of 15 or fewer, including the driver. A Class B commercial driver's driver license (CDL) with a passenger endorsement and a school bus endorsement is required for school buses and MFSABs with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more and/or a seating capacity of 16 or more, including the driver.

(b) ~~Complete~~ Successfully complete forty (40) hours of preservice training, which must include certified cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training and must consist of at least twenty (20) hours of classroom instruction and eight (8) hours of behind-the-wheel training. The classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training shall be based upon the Department's Basic School Bus Operator Curriculum, Revised 2021 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13735>), which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule. This document may be obtained from the School Transportation Management Section,

Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at a cost not to exceed actual production and distribution costs.

(c) through (e) No change.

(4) No change.

(5) Driver history records shall be requested in a manner prescribed by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles using the agency's Motor Vehicle Operator Tracking and Reporting System (MOTRS). All school districts shall obtain and review records for school bus operators using MOTRS. For any operator licensed in another state, the district shall obtain and review the driver's history record from the appropriate state on a weekly basis.

(6) Each school district shall establish a school board policy that specifies which infractions of the traffic code deem an applicant unqualified for employment and which causes any employee to be subject to a prescribed follow-up action. At a minimum, this policy shall state that any district that transports students, school bus operator or contracted operator who should have known that his or her license has expired or has been suspended or revoked shall be subject to prescribed disciplinary measures up to and including dismissal or termination of their contract by the school board.

(7) At least annually, the school district shall ensure ~~assure~~ that the operator of a school bus meets the following requirements:

(a) through (c) No change.

(8) At the time of reemployment, the school board shall ensure ~~assure~~ that each school bus operator meets all of the requirements of subsection (2) and paragraphs (3)(a) and (d) of this rule. If not more than a twelve continuous calendar month break in service has occurred, an operator shall be required to complete eight (8) hours of in-service ~~inservice~~ training related to their responsibilities for transporting students prior to driving a school bus with students. If a period exceeding twelve (12) calendar months has occurred, the operator shall be required to successfully complete all of the requirements of subsections (2) through (6) of this rule.

(9) through (10) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 316.615(3), 1001.02(1), 1006.22, 1012.45 FS. Law Implemented 316.615, 1006.22, 1012.32(2)(a), 1012.45 FS. History--New 8-1-86, Amended 7-5-89, 11-15-94, 4-18-96, 6-24-03, 11-26-06, 4-25-07, 3-23-16, 11-29-16, 8-20-19, 11-23-21.