

School Bus endorsement

The Secretary of Transportation to recognize any driver who passes a test approved by FMCSA as meeting the knowledge test requirement for a school bus endorsement under 49 CFR 383.123. Because 383.123 requires a driver to pass both knowledge and skills tests, FMCSA interpreted section 4140(a) of SAFETEA-LU as requiring recognition of any driver who passes both approved knowledge and skills tests.

Section 4140(b) of SAFETEA-LU gave the States an additional year in which to fully implement Sec. 383.123 for all school bus drivers. Thus, the compliance date in 49 CFR 384.301 was extended to September 30, 2006. FMCSA interpreted section 4140(b) of SAFETEA-LU as also extending the sunset date in Sec. 383.123(b) from September 30, 2005, to September 30, 2006, because that subsection permits States to waive the driving skills test requirement for currently-licensed school bus drivers who meet certain conditions.

FMCSA proposes to grant a 2-year exemption from the knowledge and skills tests required to obtain a school bus endorsement to a commercial driver's license (CDL) under 49 CFR 383.123. The exemption would be limited to school bus drivers from 11 States who passed equivalent tests before September 30, 2002.

How to Get a School Bus Driver's License:

★★★★★**School** bus drivers transport students to and from school. They may also drive students to school sponsored events such as field trips and sporting events. Bus drivers may work for public or private school districts. Some drivers work with programs that transport children with special needs to schools. The requirements to obtain a school bus driver's license are regulated by federal and state agencies. The requirements will vary slightly by state.

Instructions

Step 1

Contact your local state motor vehicle administration to get specific requirements in your area. They will be able to provide you with information on fees and study guides for passing exams.

Step 2

Apply for a commercial driver's license. Most states require a driver to be over the age of eighteen. Some states have a minimum age of twenty-one. You will be

required to show proof of age. You will need to have a criminal history check completed, a review of your driving record and usually a drug test and vision test will need to be passed. Also a written and on road driving test will need to be passed.

Step 3

Obtain a passenger endorsement. Additional testing is required to earn a passenger endorsement. Standards are set for testing by the Federal Highway Administration to ensure a commercial driver transporting passengers meets requirements.

Step 4

Get a school bus endorsement. A written test will need to be passed. The test will cover student management, use of emergency exits and evacuation procedures. Questions will also be asked regarding safe railroad crossings and driving laws in your state.

Step 5

Pass a driving test. Most states will require you take a driving test in a school bus. You may be asked to drive on both the highway and surface streets.

- Some states require you complete a school bus driver's training class. Classes are usually a few days and will cover safety regulations, driving laws and emergency procedures. Check with your state to determine if this is a requirement.
- Take a first aid class. Although it is not mandatory for a school bus driver's license it is important to know what to do