

WV School Bus Transportation Policy and Procedures Manual

POLICY 4336

Major Changes

- SECTION 11 – Loading and unloading procedures updated and more definitive due to accident investigation findings and added that the county must formulate a policy for a guardian to be at the bus stop to deliver or pickup their child
- SECTION 13.2 The use of cellular or other portable electronic devices prohibited while driving, loading or unloading
- SECTION 14.2.a Defined driver duty time as per FMCSA rules for hours of service criteria
- SECTION 15 Legal issues were added for new driver candidates
- State application for certification
 - Increased training hours from 30 to 40 for C/R
 - Increased skills training from 6 to 12
 - Physical exam by a FMCSA defined medical examiner
 - MD, DO, NP, PA and chiropractor
 - CDL requirement
 - Plans to have a certified examiner are in works
 - County superintendent can require a physical by MD if something questionable on physical
 - The Department will institute a transportation certification medical advisory board
- SECTION 17 Physical exam update to latest FMCSA physical requirements
- Blood pressure now coincide
 - Diabetic drivers can now use insulin as per state code
 - Requires DMV waiver
 - Intrastate driving only
- SECTION 18 Updated bus operators' responsibilities for certification renewal for legal issues
- Added 12 hours of transportation related professional development to recertify
 - Annual recertification test for probationary and sub drivers
 - Biennial test for regular bus drivers with regular employee status

- SECTION 19 Reasons for suspension, revocation, and non-renewal of certification
- Language added by the legal department to include information gained from past hearings
 - Preponderance of evidence instead of clear and convincing evidence
 - Added conviction of reckless driving, leaving the scene and obstruction
 - Added engaged in a consensual sexual or amorous relationship with a student
- SECTION 21.4 Added rules from state code addition for the use of contracted transportation by counties (Charter buses)
- \$5 million certificate of insurance
 - Vehicle safety specs
 - Driver training, certification and criminal history
- Counties can lease school buses
- Must be reimbursed for all expenses
 - Public and private non-profit organizations and education employee organizations for transportation to fairs, festivals and other education and cultural events
- SECTION 22 Added guidelines as per state code addition for school bus routing
- County Board may not create a new bus route for pk-5 for a school closure, consolidation or new construction project which exceeds by more than 15 minutes the recommended 30 minute ride. Over a total of 45 minutes the State Board must approve. 60 minutes or more cannot be approved. State Board is to provide technical assistance for counties to achieve bus routes that meet the recommended time durations.
- APPENDICES Added several appendices to aid the counties in finding and using several forms and policies
- Recommend that new county directors undergo training in transportation and personnel policies