

Requirements to Drive a Bus

A CDL handbook is available from the DPS office or on-line at:

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/documents/DL-7C.pdf> . Practice tests are available from the Maintenance Director, Principals, and/or Business Manager.

The **CDL** consist of 3 parts. A written permit test, written license test and a driving test. There is a series of sections covered on the written tests. There are 9 sections applicable to the type of CDL needed to drive a school bus. The sections are 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. They do not have to be taken at the same time but there is a time window for passing all sections.

There are **6 written tests** and **1 driving test**:

Test-1 is the Permit Test over Commercial Rules. It covers chapter 14 and the permit is good for 90 days. The permit allows you to practice driving with no passengers. No behind-the-wheel practice can take place until all sections of the written test have been passed and appropriate permit is issued.

Within 90 days the remaining 5 written test are to be taken and may be taken in any order. Any single test must be passed within three tries. If any single test can not be passed in 3 tries all test will have to be retaken.

Test-2. General Knowledge –section 1, 2, 12 and 13

Test-3. Pre-Trip- section 11

Test-4. Air Brakes- section 5

Test-5. Passenger Bus-section 4

Test-6. School Bus-section 10

Once all of these tests are completed an appointment will need to be made with D.P.S. for the driving test.

Test-7. Driving Test (This will be over the pre-trip light inspection, physical air brake test and driving test). Times for the driving test appointments are to be coordinated with Mr. Fain to ensure there is a school bus available for that time and date.

The state of Texas requires a **20 hour bus driver certification class**. These are held around the region at participating school districts. A driver must have completed the 20 hour course before they will be allowed to operate a district bus.

The certificate is up for renewal every 3 years and requires an **8 hour refresher course** (which is available online) Geoff Fain, Maintenance Director, will help you register for the 8 and 20 hour class. The school will pay for these certification classes.

The district will reimburse you for your CDL once you are a licensed school bus driver!

To operate a school bus in Texas requires an individual to pass annually a DOT physical. In addition, all CDL holders are subject by law to random drug and or alcohol testing throughout the year.

This information is provided to help you in the process and requirements of being able to drive a school bus for the district. We are here to help you.