



Jeff Ekena
Regional Superintendent
jekena@roe53.net

Jon Smith
Assistant Regional Superintendent
jonsmith@roe53.net

Bus Drivers

Bus Driver Qualifications

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Possess a valid Illinois Driver's License for past 3 years
- Physically able to safely operate a school bus
- Not convicted of 2 or more serious traffic offenses in the past 12 months
- Not convicted of reckless driving, DUI, or reckless homicide within the past 3 years
- Possess a valid and properly classified driver's license (CDL, Class B) issued by the Illinois Secretary of State or intent to obtain CDL, Class B
- Beginning February 7th, 2022, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has established new minimum training standards outlined in 49 CFR 380 for individuals applying for a CDL, upgrading an existing CDL, or adding the School Bus Endorsement (S). Drivers must have completed the required Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) from a training provider registered with FMCSA before being scheduled for a skills test.

Steps to become certified as a Bus Driver

1. Obtain a Letter of intent to Hire from the School District which will need to be presented to the IL Secretary of State when applying for CDL and School Bus Permit.
2. Provide School District with valid IL Driver's License and Social Security number
3. Submit to Fingerprint/Background check. Schedule with Regional Office of Education #53 (309) 477-2290
4. Provide proof of Physical Fitness within the past 3 months. Either a copy of a Physician's Physical Form or Physician's statement of Physical Fitness along with a Drug Screen; some school districts require a Department of Transportation Physical. Must also include TB test if transporting Pre-Kindergarten
5. If you don't already possess a valid Illinois CDL, Class B with Air Brake, School Bus (S), and Passenger (P) Endorsement, you must take the written exam and obtain a CDL Permit and School Bus Permit. Study Guides are available through the Department of Motor Vehicles/Secretary of State Facility.
6. Participate in an 8-hour Initial Bus Driver Course and pass the Initial Bus Driver Exam. Register for the course through the Regional Office of Education #53, (309) 477-2290