

SUMMERS COUNTY SCHOOLS POLICY

Adopted: Revised 1978 Rev. 8/24/04, 6/29/10

Code: IV-G-2

Reference: Board Minutes, School Laws of WV, Chapter 18B, Article 2-4 PRR Art. 4 PP 4335,
WV Code 17-B & 17-C, 18-5-13 (6&7), 18A-5-1

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Bus Drivers

The Summers County School System provides free and efficient transportation for school students who live more than two miles from the closest applicable school. The responsibility for the safe passage of these students rests directly upon the school bus driver. Consequently, the Summers County Board of Education seeks to employ mature individuals in excellent physical condition who have exhibited good judgment in the past and can be expected to practice defensive driving while transporting the students.

The general regulations relative to qualifications and duties for school bus drivers are listed below. For detailed information contact the Summers County Director of Transportation (304-466-6017) or see the *West Virginia School Bus Transportation Policy and Procedures Manual*.

School bus drivers must be at least 21 years of age, have had at least one year of experience as a licensed operator of a motor vehicle, and hold a valid WV Chauffeur's License. No applicant shall be considered who has an unsatisfactory traffic or criminal record. All applicants must have a state and federal criminal background check, state and federal driving record check, drug and alcohol test, 40 hours of classroom instruction and an additional 12 hours "behind the wheel"; 2 of these hours have to be at night. Each bus driver must have a valid TB Skin test and first aid certificate.

Each school bus driver must meet all federal, state, and county requirements that consist of but not limited to: pass all tests to obtain a Class A or Class B C.D.L. which consist of C.D.L. tests, general knowledge, air brakes, and passenger endorsement. After 12 hours of "behind the wheel" experience, the driver must take a driving test with a third party instructor. He/she must pass a written state certification test and driving certification test given by the state inspector.

Each school bus driver shall be able-bodied, free from communicable disease, and physically strong enough to handle a bus with ease. Before an applicant shall be employed as a school bus driver, he/she shall be examined by a licensed physician following the form prescribed by the Department of Public Safety. In case of physical disability, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Safety and the State Superintendent of Schools shall determine eligibility, and their decision shall be final.

The bus driver shall work under the direct supervision of the transportation director. The driver shall be held directly responsible for the safe and efficient operation and care of the vehicle to which he/she is assigned. He/she must agree to abide by all rules and regulations approved by the Summers County Board of Education, State Department of Public Safety, and State Highway Commission governing the transportation of pupils.

The bus driver will refrain from using cell phones or any other personal electronic device while operating a bus. If communication with the Transportation Department or Emergency Services is necessary, the bus must be stopped.

The bus driver is responsible for performing all duties as outlined in the State Department of Education Publication, *West Virginia School Bus Transportation Policy and Procedures Manual* and any other duties that are assigned by the board or education, superintendent or the director of transportation. Such responsibilities entail cleanliness of bus, inside and outside, and for presenting the bus to the garage for service and repair when needed and on schedule, unless directed to do differently by the director of transportation.

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