

NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Driver Training and Responsibility

Bus drivers shall observe all state statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and school bus operation. At the beginning of each school year, the District will provide the contractor with a copy of the District’s written rules for bus drivers and for student conduct on buses. It is the contractor’s responsibility to make sure each driver receives a list of the written rules.

Each bus driver will meet the qualifications established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including possession of a valid Montana commercial driver’s license (with a school bus “S” and passenger “P” endorsements), receive ten (10) hours of in-service annually, and Department of Transportation-approved physician’s certification that he or she is medically qualified for employment as a bus driver. The bus driver shall secure a valid standard first aid certificate from an authorized instructor, within two (2) months after being employed, and maintain a valid first aid certificate throughout employment as a bus driver. The bus driver must have five (5) years driving experience.

A school bus driver is prohibited from operating a school bus while using a cellular phone, including hands free cellular phone devices, except:

- (1) During an emergency situation;
- (2) To call for assistance if there is a mechanical breakdown or other mechanical problem;
- (3) When the school bus is parked.

A teacher, coach, or other certified staff member assigned to accompany students on a bus will have primary responsibility for behavior of students in his or her charge. The bus driver has final authority and responsibility for the bus. The Superintendent will establish written procedures for bus drivers.

Maximum Driving Time

The district recognizes from a risk management and student safety standard the importance of driver safety while transporting students. Therefore, the district will meet the federal standard on maximum driving time for drivers.

Legal Reference:	§ 20-10-103, MCA	School bus driver qualifications
	10.7.111, ARM	Qualification of Bus Drivers
	10.64.201, ARM	Drivers
	§ 50-46-205, MCA	Limitations of Medical Marijuana Act 42
	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	
	CFR 49, Part 395	Transportation- Hours of Service for Drivers

Policy History:

Adopted on: February 2007
Revised on: April 20, 2010, December 2018

Revision Note: 2018 revision adds Maximum Driving Time