

SUBJECT: QUALIFICATIONS OF BUS DRIVERS

A person shall be qualified to operate a bus only if such person:

- a) Is at least twenty-one years of age;
- b) Has been issued a currently valid driver's CDLB license with passenger and air brake endorsement or permit which is valid for the operation of a bus in New York State;
- c) Has passed the bus driver physical examination administered pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations;
- d) Is not disqualified to drive a motor vehicle;
- e) Has on file at least three character references; and
- f) Has completed, or is scheduled to complete, State Education Department safety programs as required by law.

Special Requirements For New Bus Drivers

Before employing a new bus driver, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall:

- a) Require such person to pass a medical examination to drive a bus;
- b) Make an inquiry to the appropriate agency in every state in which the person resided, worked, and/or held a driver's license or learner's permit during the preceding three years;
- c) Investigate the person's employment record during the preceding three years;
- d) Request the department of Motor Vehicles to initiate a criminal history check;
- e) Require such person to submit to the mandated finger-printing procedure.

Section 509 Article 19-A of the
Vehicle and Traffic Law
Part 6 of the Rules and Regulations of
the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations
(NYCRR) Section 156.3

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #5761 -- Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers and Other Safety-Sensitive Employees.

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