

➔ **Serve Your Community and Join Oklahoma's Education Team as a School Bus Driver**

- Free Training Provided for Certification and Commercial Driver License Tests.
- Minimum age is 18. All ages must pass an annual physical.
- Weekday and Saturday drivers needed. Hours vary, two to eight hours daily.
- Average monthly salary for school bus drivers was \$1,663 in FY09.
- Insurance and retirement benefits are available through the hiring school.
- Apply at any public school district. A state list may be found at <[www.sde.state.ok.us](http://www.sde.state.ok.us)>.



**It's a fact**

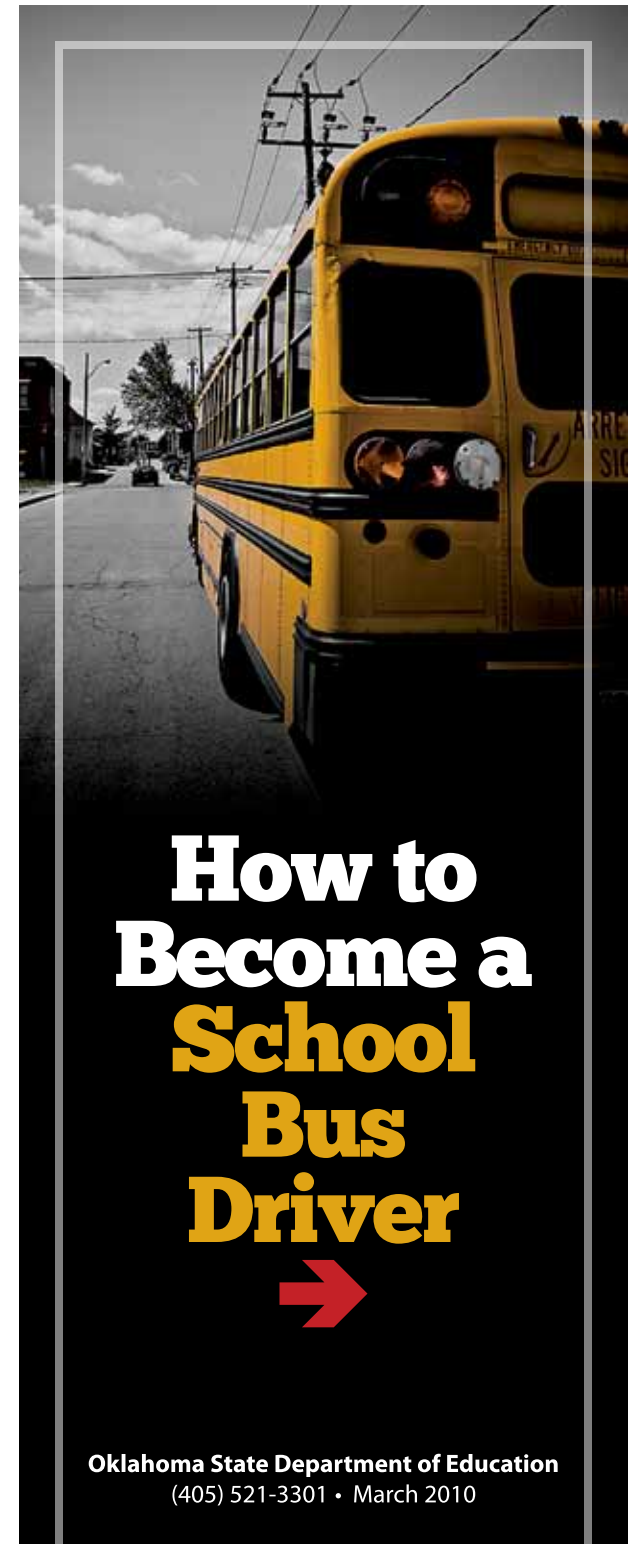
**School bus service is a courtesy and privilege. School bus service is not required by law.**

**Oklahoma Public School Bus Service Statistics and Information**

- School district compliance with state and federal student transportation regulations and laws are overseen by State Department of Education Regional Accreditation Officers (RAO).
- Each school district is **responsible for the purchase of their school bus fleet**. Some districts choose to lease buses, or contract with a school bus service.
- Daily bus routes, including student pick-up locations, are decided by each local school district's administration.
- Oklahoma's public school districts employ an average of **5,000 full-time school bus drivers** and 4,000 part-time drivers.
- Oklahoma's 7,500 school buses travel a total of **70 million miles each year** (average).
- An average **369,000 students** utilized daily school bus service provided by Oklahoma's K-12th grade public schools in FY2009.
- **58%** of enrolled K-12th grade public school students used school bus service in FY2009.
- School buses reduce vehicle emissions and fuel usage. Studies show that the **average school bus replaces 30 cars**.
- Students riding school buses are **13 times safer** than they are when riding with parents or driving their own cars.

Data provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education Finance Division in Oklahoma City, (405) 521-3301. March 2010.

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**How to Become a School Bus Driver**



**Oklahoma State Department of Education**  
(405) 521-3301 • March 2010

## Oklahoma School Bus Driver Requirements: School Bus Driver Certificate and a CDL

### → How to Obtain an Oklahoma School Bus Driver Certificate

In cooperation with the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Education (SDE) training course for school bus driver certification is offered by three options:

- 1 The School Bus Driver Certification Class is provided by most hiring school districts, **free of charge**, at their school bus facility.
- 2 Evening classes are available at many Oklahoma CareerTech Centers. **There may be a fee** which can be paid by the applicant's employing school, or by the applicant.
- 3 An SDE approved online course by *Advance Systems Technology* is available at many participating schools and Career Techs. Choosing to train online also requires five hours of on-the-road driving in a school bus with a certified instructor. **There may be a fee** to applicants utilizing an online training class.

There is **no issuance fee** for a State Department of Education School Bus Driver Certificate. The employing school submits the applications.

- Oklahoma's school bus driver training is scheduled five to six days consecutively.
- Classes normally begin at 5 p.m. or 6 p.m., Saturday driving time as needed.
- Class includes preparation for written tests as well as on-the-road driver training.
- An SDE Certificate is valid for five (5) years.

### → Department of Public Safety (DPS) School Bus Driver License Requirements

- Commercial Driver License (CDL) from the same state of driver's residency.
- CDL Class: A or B (C for certain buses).
- Endorsements P and S (P= Passenger) (S= School Bus)
- The fee for a CDL is payable to DPS.

A free *Commercial Driver License Manual* may be obtained from most DPS driver license testing stations, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, or printed online at <[www.dps.state.ok.us](http://www.dps.state.ok.us)>.

Applicants may study on their own (no class required) to take the required CDL written tests. After passing CDL written tests, DPS schedules a school bus "drive" test. The employing school provides a school bus for the drive test.

### → Prerequisites for Oklahoma Public School Bus Drivers

- Must have a driving record report for the past three years, with no more than three (3) moving violations, and no driving under the influence (DUI) conviction.
- Must pass a physical by an Oklahoma licensed physician.
- Must have vision of 20/40 or better; corrective lenses are acceptable.
- Must not be taking insulin "by injection" if diabetic.
- No felony conviction in the past ten years. No conviction involving a minor.
- Oklahoma School Bus Driver Certificate: Training course is required.
- Commercial Driver License that meets current Oklahoma DPS requirements.

## Professional School Bus Driver Opportunities Full-time and Part-time

School bus drivers are in demand: Part-time activity drivers, substitutes, and full-time drivers five days a week, two to eight hours daily.

School bus driver salaries and benefits can differ from district to district across the state.

### → Call any public school human resources office to apply for a school bus driver position.



Each district hires their school bus driver staff. For example in the Oklahoma City Metro area, Bethany, Choctaw/Nicomma, Crooked Oak, Deer Creek, Edmond, Mid-Del, Millwood, Moore, Oklahoma City, Putnam City and Western Heights districts.

Private and parochial schools (K-12th grades) accredited by the State Board of Education, must comply with requirements for their school bus drivers also.

