

STEPS TO BECOMING A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER FOR MANASSAS PARK CITY SCHOOLS

Do you have a good driving record? Do you enjoy children? Do you want to be part of a team? Becoming a bus driver is not easy – the laws and regulations get tougher each year – but most drivers would tell you the time and effort it takes to earn your CDL is well worth it. Being a School Bus Driver can be a rewarding career.

What are the steps to becoming a School Bus Driver?

1. First you must pass four tests, which are given at DMV: General Knowledge, Air Brakes, School Buses and Transporting Passengers.
2. Second, you must pass a telephone interview and an in-person interview with the director to see if you have what it takes: a professional attitude and the ability to stay focused and the patience required to drive a school bus.
3. Third, you must undergo four to six weeks of required classroom training plus a battery of hands-on training in order to meet the SPED requirements.
4. Fourth, after the classroom portion is complete, attendants must complete five days of on-the-job training before the trainers will sign off and release them.
5. Drivers will now begin the portion of behind the wheel training wherein the trainer works one-on-one to teach each trainee how the bus functions, including identification of important parts and how to perform a proper, DOT- and DOE-required pre- and post-trip inspection. Trainees learn how to operate and drive the school bus, including railroad crossing, parallel parking, backing, testing and using the brakes, loading and unloading students, recognizing road signs and understanding bridge height requirements and responding to various emergency scenarios. These are just a few of the core skills that trainees learn in preparation for their third party test, which is administered by DMV.
6. Sixth, once a driver has passed all requirements and they have their CDL, then they go to OJT for five days or longer, until the trainer signs off and the director approves their final release to drive.

Manassas Park City Schools has a team of trainers who do more than just meet the basic DOT and DOE requirements. They take it a step further and take the time to teach each individual driver every aspect of school bus operations and maintenance, student management and discipline and those policies and procedures specific to Manassas Park.

We don't just turn out drivers; we turn out professionals.

For more information, call (703) 361-5044 or email patricia.hurley@mpark.net