

Best Practices for School Bus Driver instruction

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The Utah State Board of Education (USBE), in partnership with the Utah Association for Pupil Transportation (UAPT) and the Utah State Certified Pupil Transportation Instructors (USCPTI) Committees, offers these best practice solutions to help districts accommodate the school bus driver instruction program as well as the documentation of this ongoing living document.

Districts maintain documentation in addition to the Utah State Board of Education. Every school bus driver is certified consistent with The Standards for School Buses and Operations.

1. Drivers completing recertification instruction may meet the above classroom requirements by attending courses taught at a network of certified statewide classroom sites. This creates greater flexibility and less duplication of effort. These classes may include both pre-service and recertification of drivers.
2. Districts may coordinate with neighboring districts to make classroom instruction more accessible and cost effective. Documentation should accompany drivers to their home district. Sharing Instruction calendars with neighboring districts is reasonable.
3. It is recommended that districts initiate specific detailed instruction to all drivers as to their Activities Policies and also ensure drivers have a working knowledge of "Hours of Service" for the safety of the drivers, students and the motoring public.
4. In order to maintain and/or improve driver behind the wheel skills and school bus awareness, it is suggested that districts sponsor a skills review and encourage drivers to participate in the state skills level competition. Documentation from these instructions will be added to the recertification form.
5. To be more efficient and cost effective, we encourage districts to coordinate skills reviews and trainings.
6. Districts may choose to set a day when drivers are being paid but transporting no students to set up their own skills review. Drivers could also be involved with setting up the equipment. well. Good training sharpens skills and fosters camaraderie among drivers.
7. Districts may choose to structure one or two skills to allow drivers to maneuver as they return to their designated parking area(s). Observed by an instructor, these skills could be documented.
8. Districts and Directors should encourage their District Level Instructors (DLI) to address adult learning techniques and explore the subjects to be discussed. This creates an atmosphere in which drivers understand the importance and value of the information. The instructor's responsibility lies in addressing all aspects of teaching to achieve learning. Districts and directors have a responsibility to provide their instructors time to prepare training material and the resources necessary to engage those in attendance.
9. We recommend instructors become dynamic presenters in order to engage their attendees in the art of learning.
10. The USBE and the USCPTI work together to maintain a list of mentors to ensure state-wide consistency and promote professionalism among all school bus drivers.