



San Diego Unified

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transportation Department Safety & Training

Unit 1: Introduction

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Objectives

Becoming a professional school bus driver takes a bit of effort and understanding of the system put in place to be successful. Three main objectives of this course of study is:

- Explain state and local responsibility and goal to reduce accidents
- Explain unit curricula
- Administer pretest and analyze results to determine instructional priorities

The purpose of this course:

1. To provide you with the information you will need to become a professional school bus driver
2. To provide you with the knowledge that you will need as a driver to ensure efficient and safe operation in California
3. To provide you with proper training that will enable you to pass the state required driver examinations
4. To provide you with up-to-date information and materials
5. To reduce accidents and injuries

What is a professional driver?

Driving a bus is much different from driving a car or truck. Special skills and judgments are necessary. This course you are about to take was prepared especially for bus drivers, not for truck drivers or automobile drivers. Through this course you will become a professional driver. Upon successful completion of both the classroom and behind the wheel training course, you will be prepared to take the state required examinations necessary to obtain a California Special Driver's Certificate.

To become a school bus driver, you must know many things about the pupil transportation system in California and about the plan that has been devised in California to ensure safe transportation of pupils.

Governing Board

The governing board of any school district may provide for the transportation of pupils to and from school whenever in the judgment of the board such transportation is advisable and good reasons exist therefore.

Governing Agencies

The large number of pupils transported daily throughout the state presents a safety problem that requires state regulation and control. To ensure safe transportation for our pupils, a plan has been developed whereby the:

- California Department of Education
- Department of the California Highway Patrol
- Department of Motor Vehicles

These agencies endeavor to guarantee safety in pupil transportation so far as it is possible.

Materials

The study materials you will use throughout this course and your professional driving career are as follows:

- The latest edition of the California Driver Handbook
- The latest edition of the Passenger Transportation Safety Handbook (HPH 82.7)
- California Commercial Driver Handbook

Other forms and handbooks will/may be handed out as they are required in each lesson. These materials are the primary ones that we will be working with, so please bring them with you to each session.

Attendance and Grading System

One hundred percent attendance is MANDATORY during this training course. If it is necessary to miss a class due to an emergency, you may make up the class with instructor approval. If you do not complete the course the first time, it may be repeated.

You will be given a proficiency quiz at the end of each unit of study. If you miss too many questions on the final exam, you will fail the course. Should this occur, you may retake the test by making arrangements with the instructor. If you fail the exam the second time, you must retake the course.

Behind the Wheel Training

Once you complete the classroom portion of the course you will begin behind the wheel training. Behind the wheel training requires at least 20 hours of instruction from a certified instructor or a delegated behind the wheel trainer.

State Agencies Responsibilities

California Department of Education

- The Department of Education is responsible for approving all courses of study and training activities for California school bus, school pupil activity bus (SPAB), farm labor vehicle (FLV) drivers, and transit drivers.
- The Department is also responsible for training and certifying driver instructors for school bus, SPAB, FLV, and transit bus drivers.
- Additionally, the Department is responsible for regulations related to school bus use, authority of drivers, and pupils safe riding practices and bus evacuation.

California Highway Patrol

- Inspecting and certifying buses at least once each 13 months to ascertain whether the construction, design, equipment, and color comply with all provisions of law.
- Adopting rules and regulations designed to promote safe operation
- Inspecting driver records and preventative maintenance records
- Investigating bus accidents
- Approving certain bus stops
- Administering the written test, first aid test, and driving tests for bus driver applicants
- Issuing **temporary driver certificates** for bus operations
- Interpreting and enforcing laws and regulations governing the equipment and safe operation of buses.

The Department of Motor Vehicles

- Ensuring that driver applicants and holders of a special driver's certificate maintain eligibility requirements
- Ensuring that applicants for a special driver's certificate meet the provisions of the California Code of Regulations and Vehicle Code before issuing a permanent special driver's certificate
- Conducting hearings on requests for drivers and applicants whose certification to drive has been denied, suspended, or revoked
- Issuing the special driver's certificate

School Bus Advisory Committee

The Highway Patrol has recognized that individuals who are more directly involved in the safe operation of buses should also be involved in the development of regulations and laws. The Highway Patrol Commissioner has established a committee to make a continuing study of regulations and to recommend to him such changes that appear to be necessary and desirable.

This committee is the advisory committee on pupil transportation, which is comprised of representatives of all state agencies mentioned before, plus representatives from two school districts; two representatives from school bus contractors, who are operating a transportation system; a school bus driver; and a representative from the Governor's Office of Traffic Safety. Appointments are made by the Commissioner of the Highway Patrol.

SDUSD Plan

The 1950's

Brown v. Board of Education:

U.S. laws establishing racial segregation in public schools are unconstitutional.

Many public schools remained largely segregated due to housing inequality.

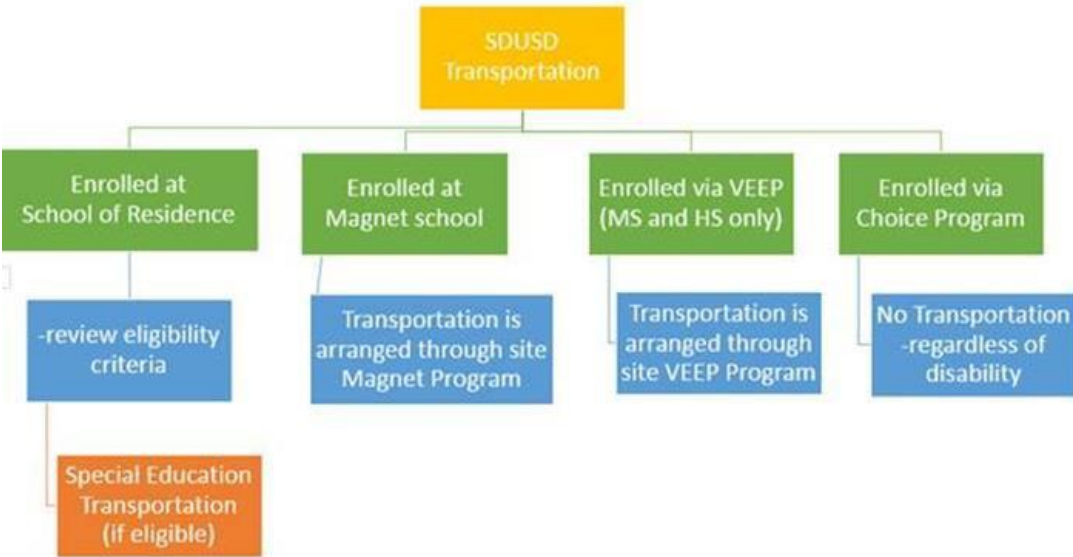
The 1970's

Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

Federal Courts could use busing as a desegregation tool to achieve racial balance

SDUSD Integration Plans

- Voluntary Integration
- VEEP
 - Voluntary Enrollment Exchange Program
- Magnet Programs
 - Offer students a unique opportunity for studies in a specific area of interest.
- Choice Enrollment – No busing allocated to this program
 - School Choice is designed for students who wish to attend a school other than their neighborhood school



School Bus Driver Pre-Test

1. The Department of Motor Vehicles is responsible for ensuring that applicants for a special driver's certificate meet the requirements of the California Code of Regulations before issuing a permanent driving certificate.

T_____F_____

2. School bus drivers are required to do a weekly inspection on their buses.

T_____F_____

3. Any person knowingly making a false statement on the application for a school bus driver certificate shall be denied a certificate.

T_____F_____

4. Some school bus accidents are caused by discipline problems on the bus.

T_____F_____

5. How you look, your attitude, and how you operate your vehicle can have a definite effect on the feelings of the public about the pupil transportation system.

T_____F_____

6. In a bus with an automatic transmission, the transmission selector lever is the driver's control over the transmission.

T_____F_____

7. It is unlawful to operate a vehicle with the transmission lever in the neutral position when the vehicle is descending a grade.

T_____F_____

8. Your best braking effort occurs when your wheels are "locked up".

T_____F_____

9. Driving at dusk is more dangerous than driving during daylight hours.

T_____F_____

10. All bus evacuation drills should be conducted by using the side emergency door.

T_____F_____

11. Highways are very slippery after the first rainfall of the season.

T_____F_____

12. In a skid, the driver should always turn the front wheels in the direction of the skid.

T_____F_____

13. If a tire blowout occurs, the driver should apply the brakes hard and stop the vehicle immediately.

T_____F_____

14. A driver's attitude will not affect his or her defensive driving patterns.

T___ F_____

15. Signals for turning movement should be given at least 75 feet in advance of the movement.

T_____F_____

16. Pedestrians have the right-of-way at intersections where the crosswalks are marked.

T___ F_____

17. Bicyclists are not controlled by any of our existing traffic regulations.

T___ F_____

18. Type II vehicles are widely used in transporting special needs education pupils.

T___ F_____

19. When preparing to make an escort stop, you may leave the engine running if your bus has a low battery.

T_____F_____

20. Black ice is considered to be the most dangerous icy road condition

T___ F_____

21. The speed limit in school zones is 35 MPH.

T___ F_____

22. When you come upon a school bus stopped on either side of the roadway with flashing red lights, you must stop.

T_____F_____

23. Failure to stop at the scene of an accident where your vehicle caused property damage, injury, or death makes you a hit-and-run driver.

T_____F_____

24. In the event of a school bus high-jacking, the first few minutes are the most critical.

T___ F_____

25. Which of the following precautions should be taken when assisting in the loading of a handicapped pupil?

T_____F_____

26. Conduct of the pupils aboard the bus is the direct responsibility of the school principal.

T_____F_____

27. A pupil who misbehaves on the bus may be put off any place the driver feels is safe.

T___ F_____

28. If you are traveling in a convoy on a field trip and the lead bus driver exceeds 55 MPH, you should also exceed 55 MPH to keep in the convoy.

T_____F_____

29. A professional bus driver should not drive beyond the limits of the headlights during darkness.

T_____F_____

30. Drivers renewing a special driver certificate must complete ten hours of classroom training during the year of renewal.

T_____F_____