

EMERGENCY RULE
Physical Examination for School Bus Drivers
Alabama State Board of Education
June 14, 2012

290-2-4-.08 Physical Examination for School Bus Drivers

(1) No person shall be allowed to operate any school bus transporting students to or from school or school-related events for a local board of education unless the person is physically qualified to drive a school bus, in accordance with 16-27-4.1 of the Code of Alabama.

(2) A person is physically qualified to drive a school bus if that person satisfies all of the following requirements:

- (a) Has no loss of a foot, a leg, a hand, or an arm.
- (b) Has no impairment of any of the following:
 - a. A hand or a finger which interferes with prehension or power grasping.
 - b. An arm, foot, or leg which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a school bus.
 - c. Any other significant limb defect or limitation which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a school bus.
- (c) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus requiring insulin for control.
- (d) Has no current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or congestive cardiac failure.
- (e) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of a respiratory dysfunction likely to interfere with his or her ability to control and safely operate a school bus.
- (f) Has no current clinical diagnosis of high blood pressure likely to interfere with his or her ability to control and safely operate a school bus.
- (g) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of rheumatic, arthritic, orthopedic, muscular, neuromuscular, or vascular disease which interferes with his or her ability to control and safely operate a school bus.
- (h) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control and safely operate a school bus.
- (i) Has no mental, nervous, organic, or functional disease or psychiatric disorder likely to interfere with his or her ability to control and safely operate a school bus.
- (j) Has distant visual acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in each eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity separately corrected to 20/40 (Snellen) or better with corrective lenses, distant binocular acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in both eyes with or without corrective lenses field of vision of at least 70 degrees in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green, and amber.
- (k) First perceives a forced whispered voice in the better ear at not less than five feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear of greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without the use of a hearing aid when the audiometric device is calibrated to American National Standard, formerly ASA Standard, Z24.5-1951.
- (l) Does not use a controlled substance identified in 21 CFR 1308.11 Schedule I, an amphetamine, a narcotic, or any other habit-forming drug. A driver may use such a substance or drug, if the substance or drug is prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with

the medical history and assigned duties of the driver and has advised the driver that the prescribed substance or drug will not adversely affect his or her ability to control and safely operate a school bus.

(m) Has no current clinical diagnosis of alcoholism.

(3) All school bus drivers operating any school bus transporting students to or from school or school-related events for a local board of education must, at their own expense, pass a physical examination and provide an Alabama School Bus Driver Physical Examination Report ("Report") to their employing board of education as follows:

(a) School bus drivers employed on or before May 14, 2012, must, at their own expense, pass a physical examination and provide the Report to the employing local board of education within three months of the above date and every two years thereafter.

(b) Persons holding an Alabama School Bus Driver Certificate who are not employed by a local board of education on or before May 14, 2012, must, at their own expense, pass a physical examination and provide a Report to the employing local board of education before being allowed to operate a school bus and every two years thereafter.

(c) Persons who obtain an Alabama School Bus Driver Certificate after May 14, 2012, must, at their own expense, pass a physical examination and provide a Report to their employing board of education before being allowed to operate a school bus and every two years thereafter.

(4) The results of each driver physical shall be documented on the Alabama School Bus Driver Physical Examination Report ("Report") provided by the SDE and shall be filed in the central office of the employing local board of education.

(5) Alabama bus drivers who hold a current, valid medical card issued by a DOT-certified medical examiner may comply with this regulation by completing the appropriate section of the Report and submitting the Report and a copy of their DOT Medical Card to the employing local board of education.

(6) Drivers holding a valid Alabama School Bus Driver Certificate may be grandfathered in for any condition noted on the Report, provided the driver's submitted Report includes the following:

(a) A written statement from their medical examiner that the any condition the driver has will not adversely affect his or her ability to control and safely operate a school bus.

(b) A signed written waiver.

(7) A local board of education shall certify to the SDE in the Annual Comprehensive Plan for Transportation that all bus drivers and substitutes operating a school bus transporting students to or from school or school-related events are in compliance with all applicable physical examination requirements. The local board of education shall identify to the SDE all drivers not in compliance these requirements.

(8) Failure to comply with the requirement of this regulation shall result in the driver losing his or her Alabama School Bus Driver Certificate issued by the State Department of Education.

(9) Nothing herein shall prohibit an employing local board of education from requiring a school bus driver to undergo additional physical examinations in accordance with federal or state law.