

# School Bus Driver Physical Exam

DL-704 (6-07)

## COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BUS DRIVER'S PHYSICAL EXAMINATION



PA Department of Transportation • Bureau of Driver Licensing  
P.O. Box 68664 • Harrisburg, PA 17106-8664  
(717) 787-6453 (8:00 am - 4:15 pm)

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH		PHONE NUMBER	
	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	
LAST NAME	JR., ETC.		FIRST NAME	M.I.
STREET ADDRESS (P.O. Box number may be used in addition to the actual address, but cannot be used as the only address.)				
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	DRIVER E-MAIL	
EMPLOYER			EMPLOYER PHONE #	

### A PERSON IS PHYSICALLY QUALIFIED TO OPERATE A SCHOOL BUS IF:

- A. There is no loss or impairment of the use of a foot, a leg, a hand, or an arm. (waivers available see reverse side)
- B. There is no medical history or clinical diagnosis of:
1. Diabetes mellitus currently requiring use of insulin or any other hypoglycemic medication. (waivers available see reverse side)
  2. Myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, or pacemaker insertion. (waivers available see reverse side)
  3. Other cardiovascular disease resulting in syncope, dyspnea, loss or impairment of consciousness, collapse, or congestive cardiac failure.
  4. Hypertension resulting in syncope, dyspnea, loss or impairment of consciousness, collapse, or congestive cardiac failure.
  5. Respiratory dysfunction likely to impair the ability to drive a school bus safely.
  6. Rheumatic, arthritic, orthopedic, muscular, neuromuscular, or vascular disease likely to impair the ability to drive a school bus safely.
  7. Seizure disorders or any other condition likely to cause loss or impairment of consciousness or any loss of ability to drive a school bus safely. (waivers available see reverse side)
- C. Has no mental, emotional or psychiatric disorder whether functional or organic which may be manifested in a condition likely to impair the ability to drive a school bus safely; such as inattentiveness, despondency, aggressiveness, or lack of concern for the safety of self or others.
- D. Has no hearing loss greater than 40 decibels in the better ear without a hearing aid, at frequencies of 500, 1000 and 2000. A person who is required to wear a hearing aid shall be tested by a clinically certified audiologist.
- E. Does not abuse alcohol or any other drug or substance known to impair skill or functions which may be manifested in any condition such as inattentiveness, despondency, aggressiveness, or lack of concern for the safety of self or others.
- F. Has distant visual acuity of at least 20/40 in the better eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity corrected to 20/40 or better. Has at least 20/50 in the poorer eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity corrected to 20/50 or better. Has a combined field of vision of at least 160° in the horizontal meridian, excepting the normal blind spots. Has the ability to determine the colors used in traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green or amber.
- G. Has no type of tuberculosis in a transmittable stage and has taken the pre-employment tuberculin test as required by Section 1418(b) of the Public School Code. Drivers who have a documented nonsignificant tuberculin skin test are not required to have further tests unless they are exposed to a case of active tuberculosis or are directed otherwise by the Secretary of the Department of Health.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT SAME IS: ☐ QUALIFIED ☐ DISQUALIFIED

COMMENTS:

### PROVIDER INFORMATION (Please print or type)

PROVIDER'S NAME	SPECIALTY	STATE LICENSE #	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE	FAX		
I hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the statements made herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities) punishable by a fine up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment up to 1 year.			
Provider's Signature		Date	

FORM MAY BE FAXED TO 717-705-1131

\*PLEASE FAX THIS END FIRST!

School bus driver physical exam is a crucial component of ensuring the safety and well-being of students who rely on school transportation. School bus drivers play a significant role in maintaining a safe environment for children, and as such, they must undergo a comprehensive physical examination to confirm their fitness for duty. This article delves into the importance of the school bus driver physical exam, the requirements and standards set forth, and the overall process involved.

# The Importance of a Physical Exam for School Bus Drivers

The physical health of a school bus driver is paramount, as it directly affects their ability to operate a vehicle safely. The responsibilities of a bus driver include:

- Monitoring student behavior: Ensuring that students follow safety protocols during transit.
- Navigating traffic: Making quick decisions in response to changing road conditions.
- Maintaining focus: Staying alert over long periods, often in challenging circumstances.

Given these responsibilities, the physical exam serves several critical purposes:

1. Assessing overall health: Drivers must be in good health to manage the physical demands of the job.
2. Identifying potential risks: Early detection of health issues can prevent accidents and enhance safety.
3. Ensuring compliance with regulations: Many states and school districts have specific health standards that must be met.

## Requirements for School Bus Driver Physical Exams

The requirements for a school bus driver physical exam can vary by state and school district, but they generally adhere to federal guidelines set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Key elements typically include:

### 1. Vision Tests

Drivers must have a minimum level of visual acuity to ensure safe operation of the vehicle. Common vision requirements include:

- 20/40 vision in at least one eye, with or without correction.
- Field of vision: Drivers should possess a field of vision of at least 70 degrees in the horizontal field of vision for each eye.

## **2. Hearing Tests**

Effective communication is vital for school bus safety. Drivers are usually required to:

- Demonstrate an ability to perceive a forced whisper from a distance of at least 5 feet.
- Use hearing aids if necessary to meet the hearing standards.

## **3. Medical History Review**

A thorough review of the driver's medical history is essential. The exam may ask about:

- Previous health conditions (e.g., epilepsy, heart disease).
- Medications taken regularly that could impair driving ability.
- Any history of substance abuse.

## **4. Physical Examination**

The physical examination itself is comprehensive and typically includes:

- Vital signs: Monitoring blood pressure, heart rate, and respiratory rate.
- Cardiovascular health: Evaluating heart function and potential risks.
- Musculoskeletal assessment: Checking for any physical limitations that could hinder driving.
- Neurological assessment: Ensuring no impairments that affect coordination or cognitive function.

# The Process of a School Bus Driver Physical Exam

Completing a school bus driver physical exam involves several steps, which can vary depending on the provider and location. Here's a general outline of the process:

## 1. Pre-Exam Preparation

- Gather necessary documentation, such as medical history and any required forms.
- Consult with a healthcare provider if there are existing health concerns.

## 2. Scheduling the Exam

- Contact a certified medical examiner who is familiar with FMCSA regulations.
- Choose a convenient time for the exam that won't interfere with work or responsibilities.

## 3. Conducting the Exam

- Complete the medical history questionnaire.
- Undergo vision and hearing tests.
- Receive a full physical examination.

#### 4. Review of Results

- The examiner will provide feedback on the results of the tests.
- If any issues arise, further evaluation may be necessary.

#### 5. Receiving the Medical Certificate

- If cleared, the driver will receive a Medical Examination Report and a medical certificate.
- This certificate must be maintained and renewed periodically, typically every two years.

## Frequency of Physical Exams

The frequency with which school bus drivers must undergo physical exams is often regulated. Typically, drivers are required to have a physical exam every two years. However, there are exceptions where more frequent evaluations may be necessary:

- If a driver has a medical condition that requires monitoring.
- If there are significant changes in health status or medications.
- For drivers over a certain age, as stipulated by state laws.

# Consequences of Failing a Physical Exam

Failing a physical exam can have serious implications for school bus drivers. Possible consequences include:

- Inability to drive: If a driver does not meet the necessary health standards, they may be disqualified from operating a school bus.
- Job loss: Continued employment may be jeopardized if a driver cannot fulfill the health requirements.
- Increased insurance costs: Health issues may lead to higher insurance premiums for the school district.

## Conclusion

The school bus driver physical exam is a vital process designed to ensure that drivers are fit for the significant responsibilities that come with transporting children. By adhering to rigorous health standards, educational institutions can maintain safer transportation environments and protect the well-being of students. As a community, it is essential to support school bus drivers by prioritizing their health and ensuring that they are equipped to handle the challenges of their role. By understanding the importance of these exams, we can foster a culture of safety and accountability in school transportation.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of a physical exam for school bus drivers?

The physical exam ensures that school bus drivers are physically fit to operate a vehicle safely, which includes assessing vision, hearing, and overall health to prevent accidents and ensure student safety.

## **What specific health conditions are evaluated during a school bus driver physical exam?**

During the exam, conditions such as cardiovascular health, respiratory function, vision acuity, hearing ability, and any neurological issues are evaluated to determine fitness for driving.

## **How often do school bus drivers need to undergo a physical exam?**

School bus drivers typically need to undergo a physical exam every one to two years, although this can vary by state or school district regulations.

## **Are there any age-related requirements for school bus driver physical exams?**

Yes, some states require more frequent physical exams for drivers over a certain age, often 50 or 60 years, to ensure continued fitness to drive.

## **What documentation is required to complete a school bus driver physical exam?**

Drivers usually need to provide a completed medical examination report form, a valid driver's license, and any previous medical records that may be relevant to their health assessment.

## **What happens if a school bus driver fails their physical exam?**

If a school bus driver fails their physical exam, they may be disqualified from driving until they address the health issues identified and obtain medical clearance from a healthcare provider.

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# School Bus Driver Physical Exam

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## ESL Conversation Questions - School (I-TESL-J)

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## ESL Conversation Questions - School (I-TESL-I)

What is your best memory from junior high school? How about high school? What's your worst memory? What school did you graduate from? What high school? What junior high school? What



time does your first class begin on Tuesday? What was the name of your junior high school? What were some of the rules you had to follow at your high school?

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Ensure your eligibility as a school bus driver with our guide on the school bus driver physical exam. Discover how to prepare and what to expect!

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