



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. Box 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

Division of School Transportation

Idaho School Transportation Guidance

Guidance from State Department of Education

Topic: Required physicals to drive school bus

Idaho Commercial Driver's License manual:

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations exempt drivers under certain circumstances from the DOT Medical card requirements (**but these operations are not exempt from CDL licensing requirements**):

Interstate drivers travel in the State of Idaho and also through other states.

School bus operations. ***(see comment below)***

Intrastate: Intrastate drivers travel only within the borders of the State of Idaho:

School bus operations. ***(see comment below)***

The Idaho State Department of Education currently **requires school bus operators to comply with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and requires their drivers to maintain a valid DOT Medical card. (Idaho commercial Driver's License Manual, October 2015)*

Section 1.2.6 Medical Qualifications for Drivers.

If you are required to possess a current DOT Medical Certificate to legally operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle under **State of Idaho law** or Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, you must be able to pass the DOT physical examination and check the appropriate box on the application form.

Section 1.2.7 National Registry of Medical Examiners

Since May 21, 2014, CMV drivers have been required to obtain their FMCSA medical examination from a certified medical examiner that is listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.

SISBO (page 51):

Student Transportation Personnel File

Each district that operates or contracts student transportation services shall cause to have filed for each school bus driver, in a secure area with limited access, the following information: (33-1506, 33-1508 and 33-1509, Idaho Code):

Copy of current original physical examination form, along with any applicable waivers

33-1509. SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS -- DEFINITION -- QUALIFICATION -- DUTIES -- LIABILITY. (EDITED FOR CONTENT)

For the purpose of this chapter, the term "school bus driver" shall mean any person who at any time is operating a school bus while transporting pupils to or from school, or to or from approved school activities.

A board of trustees shall employ school bus drivers only upon prior application in writing, and the board shall require of school bus drivers employed by others who transport pupils of their district under contract the same information required in such written application. Each application shall contain at least the minimum information specified by the state department of education.

Any person employed as a school bus driver shall be over the age of eighteen (18) years, be of good moral character and not addicted to the use of intoxicants or narcotics. **School bus drivers shall meet the physical examination standards of the federal motor carrier safety regulations.** Provided however, that individuals with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, who are otherwise medically qualified under the physical examination standards of the federal motor carrier safety regulations, may request a waiver for this condition from the state department of education.

Before entering upon his duties, each school bus driver shall file with the board of trustees a current health certificate. **Subsequent health certificates shall be filed with the frequency required by the federal motor carrier safety regulations.** **School bus drivers shall be physically able to perform all job-related duties.**

Idaho Administrative Rule:

08.02.02 - RULES GOVERNING UNIFORMITY

004. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.

The State Board of Education adopts and incorporates by reference into its rules:

02. Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations as approved on June 23, 2011. The Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations are available at the Idaho State Department of Education, 650 W. State St., Boise Idaho, 83702.

170. SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OPERATION.

All school districts and school bus drivers must meet or exceed the training, performance and operation requirements delineated in the Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations as incorporated in Section 004 of these rules. (Section 33-1508; **33-1509**, Idaho Code).

FMCSA regulations frequent questions: a few examples:

What if I recently developed a medical condition that I couldn't drive?

If you develop a medical condition that may interfere with the safe operation of a CMV, you are disqualified from driving while you have that condition. Once a disqualifying medical condition is resolved, and before resuming operation of CMVs, you are responsible for obtaining re-certification from a Medical Examiner.

Can my new employer make me get a DOT physical even if my current medical certificate is still valid for another 18 months?

Yes, the employer can require you to take a new physical exam, if is company policy. They also usually will pay for the exam if they require it.

Further Resource:

Company or district policies.

