

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING

Training you need. Options you want.



CDL
courses
available in
person and
online!

MEET TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

All regular, substitute and activity bus drivers are required by DPI to attend the following:

- Annual 3-hour training workshop sponsored by the local school district or county superintendent's office.
- NDSC's DDC-4 workshop every 5 years. New drivers must attend within one year of employment.

With the passage of House Bill 1385 in January 2019, these training requirements also apply to drivers of school vehicles designed to seat 10 to 15 passengers.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR WORKSHOP

Keep your drivers engaged by bringing them new and relevant topics, each year. Mix and match any of the modules or courses to create the perfect 3-hour workshop!

PRE-BUILT CURRICULUM OPTIONS

Defensive Driving Course > 4 hours

Defensive Driving Course, Online > 4 hours

Adverse Weather Driving Course > 4 hours

Distracted Driving, Online or Classroom Facilitation > 90 minutes

BUILD-YOUR-OWN CURRICULUM

Section 1: SAFETY & DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Module 1: Safety Best Practices > 60 minutes

Module 2: LLLC – Defensive Driving > 45 minutes

Section 2: ABOUT THE BUS

Module 3: Meet the Bus > 30 minutes

Module 4: Pre- & Post- Trip Inspections > 45 minutes

Module 5: Mirror Adjustment & Reference Points > 30 minutes

Module 6: Check Your Breaks > 30 minutes

Section 3: ABOUT DRIVING SITUATIONS

Module 7: Intersections > 30 minutes

Module 8: Safe Backing > 30 minutes

Module 9: Railroad Crossings > 30 minutes

Module 10: Danger Zones > 45 minutes

Module 11: Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety > 30 minutes

Module 12: Adverse Conditions > 30 minutes

Module 13: Mountain Driving > 30 minutes

Section 4: ABOUT THE DRIVER

Module 14: Driver Fatigue > 30 minutes

Module 15: Preventing Driver Distractions > 30 minutes

Module 16: Preventing Harassment > 30 minutes

Module 17: Drugs & Alcohol Prevention > 45 minutes

Section 5: ABOUT THE CHILDREN

Module 18: Safe Bus Stops > 30 minutes

Module 19: Student Management > 60 minutes

Module 20: Extreme Student Behavior > 30 minutes

Module 21: Checking for Sleeping Children > 30 minutes

Module 22: Safe Practices for Power Lines > 30 minutes

Module 23: Preparing Students to Learn > 30 minutes

Section 6: WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

Module 24: Emergency Evacuations > 30 minutes

Module 25: Post Crash Procedures > 30 minutes

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING

Training Descriptions

PRE-BUILT CURRICULUM OPTIONS

Choose from any of these courses, professionally developed by the National Safety Council or NDSC.

Defensive Driving Course > 4 hours

Available as a classroom or online program.

This fast-paced, four-hour driver improvement program offers practical strategies to reduce collision-related injuries, fatalities and costs. DDC addresses the importance of attitude in preventing collisions and reinforces the good driving skills you already have.

Adverse Weather Driving Course > 4 hours

This course is a great refresher for experienced drivers and is an eye-opener for those new to North Dakota's roads. Topics include top factors that cause crashes in bad weather, types of roads and how different weather conditions affect them, and winter preparations for different vehicle types.

Distracted Driving > 90 minutes

Facilitate in the classroom or have your drivers complete it online at their own pace! DDC Distracted Driving Online helps change drivers' distracted driving attitudes and behaviors. A self-assessment sets the pace with appropriate scenarios, activities and content based on the individual profiles and risk level. This 90-minute course uses an engaging, interactive format that educates employees about the risks and dangers of cellphone use while driving.

BUILD-YOUR-OWN CURRICULUM

These modules are designed to improve driver behaviors, help identify ways to remove or reduce risk, and improve school bus safety. Quality videos depict realistic situations and model correct behavior. Animations and discussion groups enhance the learning points, and quizzes at the end of each module allow for knowledge checks.

Section 1: SAFETY & DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Module 1: Safety Best Practices > 60 minutes

This powerful module begins by sharing details of four real-life crashes. Participants will discuss the behaviors that led to the crashes and alternate behaviors that would have prevented them. The instructor will help drivers explore the risks they face on the job, how they can remove or reduce risk, and discuss unsafe behaviors to avoid behind the wheel.

Module 2: LLLC – Defensive Driving > 45 minutes

This module will address specific actions drivers can take to eliminate risk and reduce their chance of a crash. Participants will learn the Four Driving Principals to Safety™ and how they can apply them to their driving.

Section 2: ABOUT THE BUS

Module 3: Meet the Bus > 30 minutes

Professional drivers need a basic understanding of the mechanics of their vehicle and its limitations so they can quickly determine mechanical issues and if the bus is safe to continue operating. During this module we'll review the busses operating systems so your drivers have the tools to identify problems and avoid breakdowns.

Module 4: Pre- & Post-Trip Inspections > 45 minutes

Not only are vehicle inspections a DOT requirement, they're key to communicating defects or concerns with maintenance. Participants will learn how to perform proper inspections using our checklist or the ZONAR 2010 EVIR.

Module 5: Mirror Adjustment & Reference Points > 30 minutes

Reference points are physical points on the bus that help drivers get their bearings on the bus's position on the road. This module will walk through best practices for setting and using mirrors and reference points.

Module 6: Check Your Breaks > 30 minutes

The brake system on a bus is much more complicated than your standard passenger vehicle. During this module, drivers will review how air brakes and hydraulic brakes work, air brake inspections, and how to correctly test their brake system.

Section 3: ABOUT DRIVING SITUATIONS

Module 7: Intersections > 30 minutes

Intersections are high risk areas. During this module, participants will review three real-life intersection crash scenarios and discuss how the crashes could have been prevented using professional driver best practices.

Module 8: Safe Backing > 30 minutes

School busses have far more blind spots than a car, making safe backing much more difficult. Drivers will review the three rules to backing a bus, discuss how to avoid risks associated with daily backing challenges, and learn basic guidelines for safe backing.

Module 9: Railroad Crossings > 30 minutes

Some of the most catastrophic bus crashes of all time have happened at railroad crossings. These crashes are rare, but because of the exceptional danger they pose, there are strict procedures drivers must follow. Participants will review crossing hazards and the 10 steps to safely cross the tracks.

Module 10: Danger Zones > 45 minutes

In the US over the past 10 years an average of 11 children per year were killed by their own bus or by other vehicles passing the bus. This module will help drivers ensure passenger safety both before they board and after they leave the bus. Topics will include identification of danger zones; checking danger zones; reasons children enter danger zones; and instructions drivers can provide to students.

Continued...

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Module 11: Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety > 30 minutes

During this module, participants will learn how to remove the risk of striking a pedestrian or cyclist. Topics will include the dangers of intersections and turning; blind spots and how to improve visibility; and how to use the Triple L - CTM Defensive Driving Principles.

Module 12: Adverse Conditions > 30 minutes

North Dakota drivers are no stranger to adverse weather conditions. Experienced drivers know that when we correctly adjust our driving for the conditions, we reduce crash risk. During this module, participants will review types of adverse weather they may encounter and what they can do to safely navigate each set of conditions.

Module 13: Mountain Driving > 30 minutes

Mountain driving includes additional risks when driving a large heavy school bus, especially if it includes the weight of many students. During this module we'll discuss the dangers of mountain driving and what drivers can do to stay safe in mountainous regions. Topics include gearing down, engine retarders, using the brakes, adding chains and more.

Section 4: ABOUT THE DRIVER

Module 14: Driver Fatigue > 30 minutes

A driver must be well rested and alert to give their job their fullest attention. During this module, we'll discuss the dangers of driving fatigued; types of and causes of fatigue; and effective methods for managing fatigue.

Module 15: Preventing Driver Distractions > 30 minutes

It is estimated that 20% of all crashes involve distracted driving. Drivers will learn how to use the tools of LLLC to maintain their focus on the road. Group discussions will include common causes of distractions; how to reduce distractions with pre-trip preparations; and how to re-focus attention when your mind shifts off task.

Module 16: Preventing Harassment > 30 minutes

Everyone has a right to a comfortable work environment free from harassment of any kind. Just like a bully may not realize they are being a bully, the person harassing may not recognize the uncomfortable situation they're creating. This module will help your drivers understand what harassment is, how to recognize it and what to do about it.

Module 17: Drugs & Alcohol Prevention > 45 minutes

During this module, discussion will center around how to create a drug free workplace; understanding addiction; risks, signs and symptoms; and specific drugs of abuse.

Section 5: ABOUT THE CHILDREN

Module 18: Safe Bus Stops > 30 minutes

Drivers know their route better than anyone else. As the experts it's their responsibility to report conditions that feel unsafe and to advocate for change. During this module, participants will brainstorm unsafe bus stop scenarios and discuss actions they can take in these situations.

Module 19: Student Management > 60 minutes

Managing a bus load of children isn't an easy job. Your drivers will learn tips for minimizing direct management of students and discuss ways to handle problems when they arise. Topics will include building student-driver rapport, establishing bus rules, student discipline guidelines, incident reports, and managing a crisis situation.

Module 20: Extreme Student Behavior > 30 minutes

This module will prepare your drivers for cases of extreme student management. Scenarios discussed will include physical altercations, sexual assault, violence directed at the driver, transporting children through gang territory, and hijacking.

Module 21: Checking for Sleeping Children > 30 minutes

It is the driver's responsibility to check for sleeping children at the end of every route. During this module, participants will review why it's important to always check their bus for sleeping children, how easy it is to check for students, and how to properly use the child-check-mate system.

Module 22: Safe Practices for Power Lines > 30 minutes

In the event a bus leaves the roadway and strikes a power line, your drivers need to know what to do. During this module we'll discuss what to do if a downed power line is near their bus, including proper protocols for exiting the bus, if necessary.

Module 23: Preparing Students to Learn > 30 minutes

The trip to and from school frames a student's school day. Creating a safe, caring and structured environment can have a positive affect that stays with the students when they leave your bus. Sections within this module include conversations regarding changing attitudes, controlling chaos, and careful maneuvers.

Section 6: WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

Module 24: Emergency Evacuations > 30 minutes

We all hope we never have to use Emergency Evacuation Procedures, but it's extremely important that we're familiar with them. During this module we'll discuss scenarios that could cause the need for evacuations; when and how to evacuate; and what steps to take after evacuation.

Module 25: Post Crash Procedures > 30 minutes

In the event of a crash, the procedure to follow is very specific. During this module we'll outline this procedure as well as how to handle passengers and others involved. Students will all participate in an exercise to practice completing an accident report form.



NDSC
NORTH DAKOTA SAFETY COUNCIL
A private non-profit.

**Call for pricing and to
schedule your training today**

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