Subject: Qualifications of Bus Drivers

A person shall be qualified to operate a bus only if such person:

(a) is at least twenty-one years of age;

(b) has been issued a currently valid driver's license or permit which is valid for the operation of the bus in New York State;

(c) has passed the bus driver physical examination administered pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations;

(d) is not disqualified to drive a motor vehicle;

(e) has on file at least three character references; and

(f) has completed, or is scheduled to complete, State Education Department safety programs as required by law.

(g) have no conviction, violation or infraction listed in section 509-c or section 509-cc of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, or under any other provisions of article 19-A of that law. In order to determine an applicant has no such convictions the applicant must submit fingerprints for a state criminal history check. The fingerprints also may be submitted to the FBI for a national check (Vehicle & Traffic Law § 509-cc(5).

Before employing a new bus driver, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall:

(a) make inquiry to the appropriate agency in every state in which the person resided, worked, and/or held a driver’s license or learner’s permit during the preceding three years (Driving Record Abstract check);

(b) investigate the person’s employment record during the preceding three years;

(c) request the Department of Motor Vehicles to initiate a criminal history check;
Subject: Qualifications of Bus Drivers (Continued)

(d) require such person to submit to a physical performance test;

(e) require such person to submit to a pre-employment drug and alcohol test;

(f) have Superintendent’s approval.

Section 509 Article 19-A of
the Vehicle and Traffic Law

Part 6 of the Rules and
Regulations of the Commissioner
of Motor Vehicles

Section 156.3 of the Rules and
Regulations of the Commissioner
of Education

Approved: Board of Education
July 10, 2002

Approved: Board of Education
June 13, 2007

Approved: Board of Education
April 27, 2011

Approved: Board of Education
January 28, 2015