

Basic School Bus Operator Curriculum

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Course Guide:

Basic School Bus Operator Curriculum

Using the Curriculum

The Florida Department of Education's Basic School Bus Operator Curriculum was developed to provide a comprehensive course for beginning school bus operators to promote the state's goal of providing safe, efficient, and dependable student transportation services. This curriculum seeks to promote uniformity of instruction to provide a standard learning experience across the state. It is intended to be a framework to teach the 20 hours of classroom instruction required for every new school bus operator.

This curriculum was designed to be as flexible as possible to accommodate local school district procedures. Instructors should review the course content and customize the materials to satisfy local district policies.

Instructors should use all resources available to get each participant involved in the learning process. The curriculum's content, performance objectives, and learning experiences are designed to promote the acquisition of driving skills and the knowledge necessary for safe school bus operations.

Format

The curriculum is divided into 14 units, each of which deals with a specific aspect of student transportation. Each unit has an introductory page containing the unit number, title, and an overview of the unit, including the following:

- Audio-Visual Materials – a list of available audio-visual materials that support the unit. (Most videos can be borrowed from the Department of Education's Student Transportation Management library.)
- Equipment – equipment needed to teach the unit.
- References – list of all sources referred to throughout the unit.
- Optional Strategies – unique presentation ideas to vary delivery of instruction.
- Objectives – information the operator should understand after the unit has been taught.

The remaining pages of each unit contain the core content presented in a PowerPoint format. The top of the page is the PowerPoint slide presented to the participants. The bottom of the page provides the content the instructor should teach. There are strategies suggested to encourage participant involvement; whenever possible, we encourage the trainers to further illustrate information with examples.

There is a sample test included for each unit, along with all pertinent transportation rules and laws. For each unit test, school districts are encouraged to add questions about the local district policies and procedures that have been presented.

Continued Learning

After completing this course, school bus operators are expected to reinforce and expand their learning through periodic in-service instruction.

The School Transportation Management Section of the Florida Department of Education is willing to assist in the required annual in-service instruction for school bus operators on an as-needed basis.