

Driver Training Requirements

2026

**Arizona Student Transportation
Advisory Council**

Overview

- ▶ R13-13-102.F.1.a.-g. – Classroom training topics
- ▶ R13-13-102.F.3 – Classroom notification period
- ▶ R13-13-102.F.4.c. – English requirement
- ▶ R13-13-102.F.7 – Behind-the-wheel training topics
- ▶ R13-13-102.F.7.c. – Trainer to instructor ratio
- ▶ R13-13-102.G.2 – CPR/First Aid in-person instruction
- ▶ R13-13-102.I.1 – School bus driver refresher completion timeline
- ▶ R13-13-102.I.2 – School bus driver refresher training topics
- ▶ Additional concepts for consideration

Notes for the Public

During study group work, members were encouraged to ask the following:

- ▶ What is the reason or justification for the rule change?
- ▶ Why does it matter?
- ▶ Why is it necessary?
- ▶ Review and provide supporting documents
- ▶ What is the Economic Impact and Cost Analysis?
- ▶ What alternatives were considered, and how were those alternatives eliminated to maintain the least regulatory burden while still meeting minimum safety standards?



Classroom Training Topics

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R13-13-102.F.1.a.-g.

F. Training requirements of a school bus driver

1. Before being certified by the Department as a school bus driver, an applicant shall complete a minimum of 14 hours of classroom training in the following:
 - a. State and federal traffic laws,
 - b. Behind-the-wheel driving operations,
 - c. School bus driver's responsibilities to passengers and school,
 - d. Inspections and operations checks,
 - e. Records and reports,
 - f. Special needs transportation, and
 - g. Accidents and emergencies.

R13-13-102.F.1.a.-g. Proposed Change

F. Training requirements of a school bus driver

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 - a. State and federal traffic laws,
 - b. Behind-the-wheel driving operations,
 - c. School bus driver's responsibilities to passengers and school,
 - d. Inspections and operations checks,
 - e. Records and reports,
 - f. Special needs transportation, and
 - g. Accidents and emergencies.

- ▶ Strikethrough and remove topics a. through g.
- ▶ Add "utilizing a Department-approved training curriculum."

Revised Rule with Change

“F.1. Before being certified by the Department as a school bus driver, an applicant shall complete a minimum of 14 hours of classroom training utilizing a Department-approved training curriculum.”

Reason for Change

- ▶ Replace with the language providing more flexibility to update training standards without the need for rulemaking



Classroom Training Notification Period

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R13-13-102.F.3

3. At least seven business days before classroom training, the classroom instructor shall notify the Department in writing of the date, time, and location of classroom training. The classroom instructor shall notify the Department by any means available at least 24 hours before the date, time, or location of classroom training is changed or canceled.

R13-13-102.F.3 Proposed Change

3. At least seven business days before classroom training, the classroom instructor shall notify the Department in writing of the date, time, and location of classroom training. The classroom instructor shall notify the Department by any means available at least 24 hours before the date, time, or location of classroom training is changed or canceled.

- ▶ Change seven days to 48 hours
- ▶ All remaining language remains in place

Revised Rule with Change

“F.3 At least **48 hours** before classroom training, the classroom instructor shall notify the Department in writing of the date, time, and location of classroom training. The classroom instructor shall notify the Department by any means available at least 24 hours before the date, time, or location of classroom training is changed or canceled.”

Reason for Change

- ▶ Provides flexibility for providers to make last-minute changes with and/or schedule classes as needed



English Requirement

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R13-13-102.F.4.c.

- c. If an applicant is unable to read or speak English, the employer shall arrange to have the examination administered orally to the applicant in the language with which the applicant is most familiar.

R13-13-102.F.4.c. Proposed Change

- c. If an applicant is unable to read or speak English, the employer shall arrange to have the examination administered orally to the applicant in the language with which the applicant is most familiar.
-
- Change “C.” to “The written examination shall be administered in the English language.”

Revised Rule with Change

"F.4.c The written examination shall be administered in the English language."

Reason for Change

- ▶ Alignment with FMCSA 49 CFR § 391.11(b)(2) – “English speaking well enough to safely converse with the public, understand traffic signs, respond to official inquiries, and complete reports.
- ▶ Current state legislation proposed an amendment H.B. 2446 to enforce English proficiency for CDL drivers



Behind-the-Wheel Training Topics

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R13-13-102.F.7

7. In addition to the classroom training, an applicant shall complete behind-the-wheel training consisting of a minimum of 20 hours operating a school bus in Arizona.

R13-13-102.F.7 Proposed Change

7. In addition to the classroom training, an applicant shall complete behind-the-wheel training consisting of a minimum of 20 hours operating a school bus in Arizona.

- ▶ Add “utilizing a Department-approved training curriculum.”

Revised Rule with Change

“F.7. In addition to the classroom training, an applicant shall complete behind-the-wheel training consisting of a minimum of 20 hours operating a school bus in Arizona utilizing a Department-approved training curriculum.”

Reason for Change

- ▶ Consistent with classroom instruction language
- ▶ Requires a consistent state standard for school bus driver instruction



Trainee to Instructor Ratio

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R13-13-102.F.7.c

- c. The employer shall ensure that no one except the applicant, behind-the-wheel instructor, employer, and Department employees are aboard the school bus while the applicant actually operates the school bus.

R13-13-102.F.7.c Proposed Change

c. The employer shall ensure that no one except the applicant, behind-the-wheel instructor, employer, and Department employees are aboard the school bus while the applicant actually operates the school bus.

► Remove R13-13-102.F.7.c

Revised Rule with Change

~~“F.7.c The employer shall ensure that no one except the applicant, behind-the-wheel instructor, employer, and Department employees are aboard the school bus while the applicant actually operates the school bus.”~~

Reason for Change

- ▶ Provides flexibility for providers to utilize behind-the-wheel instruction time more creatively
- ▶ No Federal ELDT requirement for a 1-to-1 instructor/trainee ratio
- ▶ All applicants would still be required to each complete 20 hours behind the wheel
- ▶ Instructors would be required to record and report behind-the-wheel hours as currently required in Minimum Standards



CPR/First Aid In-Person Instruction

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R13-13-102.G.2

2. The instruction shall be conducted in-person by an individual currently certified as an instructor in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation by a program approved by a nationally recognized organization such as the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, National Safety Council, American Safety and Health Institute, or Arizona ~~Bureau of Mines~~ state, county or municipal agency; by ~~an~~ a licensed emergency medical technician or paramedic ~~licensed in Arizona~~; by a licensed medical doctor or nurse; or by an agency of the U.S. government.

R13-13-102.G.2 Proposed Change

2. The instruction shall be conducted in-person by an individual currently certified as an instructor in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation by a program approved by a nationally recognized organization such as the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, National Safety Council, American Safety and Health Institute, or Arizona ~~Bureau of Mines~~ state, county or municipal agency; by ~~an~~ a licensed emergency medical technician or paramedic ~~licensed in Arizona~~; by a licensed medical doctor or nurse; or by an agency of the U.S. government.

- ▶ Change from shall to may
- ▶ Change in-person to hybrid or combination of virtually and in-person
- ▶ Add language for CPR skills to be completed in person

Revised Rule with Change

“G.2 The instruction may be conducted in person or virtually, with the requirement that CPR skills are completed in person, by an individual currently certified as an instructor in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation by a program approved by a nationally recognized organization such as the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, National Safety Council, American Safety and Health Institute or Arizona Bureau of Mines state, county or municipal agency; by ~~an~~ a licensed emergency medical technician or paramedic ~~licensed in Arizona~~; by a licensed medical doctor or nurse; or by an agency of the U.S. government.

*White underline indicates proposed rule change from DPS

Reason for Change

- ▶ Provides flexibility for employers and certified drivers to find hybrid methods to obtain and maintain certification
- ▶ Rural districts struggle to find CPR/First Aid instructors
- ▶ Documents should indicate if the training was completed via a hybrid method



School Bus Driver Refresher Completion Timeline

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R13-13-102.I.1

I. Refresher training

1. A school bus driver shall have refresher training no later than ~~24 months~~ two years following completion of the training required by subsection (F). Refresher training shall consist of a minimum of 6 1/2 hours of classroom training in the topics listed in subsection (F)(1).

R13-13-102.I.1 Proposed Change

I. Refresher training

1. A school bus driver shall have refresher training no later than ~~24 months~~ two years following completion of the training required by subsection (F). Refresher training shall consist of a minimum of 6 1/2 hours of classroom training in the topics listed in subsection (F)(1).

- ▶ Add new
- ▶ Change to 12 months or one year
- ▶ Change to mirror language in revised (F)(1)
- ▶ Add behind-the-wheel evaluation completed by a certified instructor
- ▶ Add 1.a for recertification of a school bus driver

Revised Rule with Change

“1.1 A new school bus driver shall have refresher training no later than one year following completion of the training required by section (F). Refresher training shall consist of a minimum 6 ½ hours of classroom training utilizing Department-approved training curriculum and complete a behind-the-wheel training evaluation conducted by a certified instructor.”

*Discuss driver recertification requirements if an applicant was inactive for over a year

Reason for Change

- ▶ Newly certified school bus drivers should be provided more training and follow-up.
- ▶ Continues training beyond initial certification and not waiting 2 years prior to first exposure to refresher
- ▶ Behind-the-Wheel evaluation should be submitted to the Department
- ▶ Aligns training curriculum with other recommended language in this section



School Bus Driver Refresher Training Topics

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Advisory Council

R13-13-102.I.2

2. After completing the first refresher training, the school bus driver shall complete a minimum of 6 1/2 hours of classroom training in the topics listed in subsection (F)(1) every 24 months following the last refresher training.

R13-13-102.1.2 Proposed Change

2. After completing the first refresher training, the school bus driver shall complete a minimum of 6 1/2 hours of classroom training in the topics listed in subsection (F)(1) every 24 months following the last refresher training.

- ▶ Change to mirror language in revised (F)(1)
- ▶ All remaining language remains in place

Revised Rule with Change

“1.2 After completing the first refresher training, the school bus driver shall complete a minimum of 6 ½ hours of classroom training utilizing Department-approved training curriculum.”

Reason for Change

- ▶ Alignment with proposed revised language for classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction
- ▶ Provides more flexibility to update refresher training topics and standards without the need for rulemaking
- ▶ Allows the possibility for annual or biennial statewide training topics to be issued for discussion and training as needed



Additional Concepts for Consideration

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Additional Concepts

The study group discussed additional concepts not currently published in Minimum Standards, including:

- ▶ Annual or biennial school bus driver behind-the-wheel evaluations completed by a certified instructor
- ▶ Training requirements for out-of-state school bus drivers transferring to Arizona
- ▶ Requirement for employers to utilize all types of school bus vehicles in their fleet to be utilized for training (Type A, B, C, D, Rear Engine, Conventional etc.)



Request to the Council and DPS to vet these concepts for continued discussion and future approval, including additional concepts in the previous slide.



Questions?

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Contact Info

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Study Group: Driver Training and Instructor Qualifications