

# Minnesota School Bus Driver Shortage

*Minnesota is facing its most significant school bus driver shortage in recent history.*

- As the 2018-2019 school year begins, Minnesota is in need of thousands of school bus drivers to get children to school safely each day.
- Nearly every school district in the state is facing a bus driver shortage. Some districts need a handful of new drivers, while others need more than 100.
- School districts are required by state law to provide transportation to all students who live more than two miles from their school. A lack of school bus drivers would require other district employees – such as mechanics or administrators – to be pulled off their jobs to drive buses.
- A lack of school bus drivers would likely result in fewer afterschool activities and canceled field trips.



*Become a driver in 14 days.*

Those wanting to become a driver could complete the following steps in just two weeks.

- Pass a physical, drug test, and background check
- Pass knowledge tests for commercial licensing
- Hold a commercial learners permit for 14 days
- Complete behind the wheel training
- Pass a behind-the-wheel test



*School bus driving is a fulfilling profession.*

- Each day, Minnesota school bus drivers safely transport more than 760,000 students to and from school.
- Bus drivers can be powerful mentors. They are the only school officials who see children every day of the school year, and can be a positive influence to a student's education experience.
- Bus driving is an ideal profession for retirees who love to spend time with young people, parents who want to mirror their children's schedules recent college graduates, and self-employed people looking for extra income.
- On average, bus drivers work 15-30 hours per week, with flexible scheduling.
- School bus contractors are careful to hire caring, qualified people to become bus drivers.
- In addition to commercial bus driving training, drivers must pass a fitness exam, ongoing criminal background checks, and drug and alcohol testing.
- Being a bus driver today is very different from how adults remember it as students. Most of today's buses are equipped with GPS technology, cameras, improved ceiling acoustics, and pollution control equipment.

To help solve Minnesota's bus driver shortage, visit [www.msboa.com](http://www.msboa.com) and become a bus driver today.