

# School Bus Driver Physicals Clinical Innovation Summit May 1, 2021

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*Indiana*  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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# School Bus Drivers



# School Bus Driver Licensing & Certification

## √ Licensing

1. CDL Physical

## √ Certification – School Bus Driver Specific (Yellow Card)

1. Complete Physical

A. Title 20 Physical Fitness Certificate (held locally)

2. Complete Physical Performance Tests (held locally)



# National Registry – Certified Medical Examiners

## Google – NRCME FMCSA

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for CONTACT US, SITE INDEX, FMCSA, FMCSA PORTAL, and DOT .GOV. Below this is a header with the U.S. Department of Transportation logo and the text: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. A main navigation menu includes HOME, MEDICAL EXAMINERS & ASSISTANTS, DRIVERS & CARRIERS, TESTING & TRAINING ORGS, RULES & REGS, and LOGIN. The main content area features a large banner with a group of medical examiners and a 'Welcome' message. The banner text reads: NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS, nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov. The 'Welcome' message states: The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) is a new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) program. All commercial drivers whose current medical certificate expires on or after May 21, 2014, at expiration of that certificate must be examined by a medical professional listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. Only medical examiners that have completed training and successfully passed a test on FMCSA's physical qualification standards will be listed on the National Registry. A 'Learn More' button is provided. Below the banner, there are two main sections: 'Drivers & Carriers' with a search for a medical examiner form (City, State) and a map of the United States, and 'Medical Examiners' with a list of actions: Register to Become Certified, Find a Testing Organization, and Find a Trained Organization.

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

CONTACT US | SITE INDEX | FMCSA | FMCSA PORTAL | DOT .GOV

HOME | MEDICAL EXAMINERS & ASSISTANTS | DRIVERS & CARRIERS | TESTING & TRAINING ORGS | RULES & REGS | LOGIN

**NATIONAL REGISTRY**  
**OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS**  
nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov

**Welcome**

The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) is a new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) program. All commercial drivers whose current medical certificate expires on or after May 21, 2014, at expiration of that certificate must be examined by a medical professional listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. Only medical examiners that have completed training and successfully passed a test on FMCSA's physical qualification standards will be listed on the National Registry.

[Learn More](#)

**Drivers & Carriers**

Search for a Medical Examiner

City

State

**Medical Examiners**

- Register to Become Certified +
- Find a Testing Organization +
- Find a Trained Organization



# Maintaining License & Certification

Every Two Years

1. Renew Physicals

- A. CDL Physical (may be more often depending on medical issues)

- B. Title 20 Physical Fitness Certificate (held locally)

- i. Two years regardless of CDL physical expiration date

2. Renew Physical Performance Tests (held locally)



# Physical Examination

## **IC 20-27-8-4 School bus driver; physical examination certificate**

Sec. 4. An individual who is or intends to become a school bus driver must obtain a physical examination certificate stating that the individual possesses the physical characteristics required by section 1(a)(7) of this chapter. The certificate shall be made by an individual who is registered in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners after the certified medical examiner has conducted a physical examination of the school bus driver or prospective school bus driver. The school corporation shall determine how the certified medical examiner who is to conduct the physical examination is chosen and who must pay for the physical examination.



(Insert employer name or place on letterhead / Return to employer when complete)

**Physical Fitness Certificate**

**School Bus Driver  
Special Purpose Bus Operator  
School Bus Monitor**

Indiana Code 20-27-8-1, in part states, (a) an individual may not drive a school bus for the transportation of students or be employed as a school bus monitor unless the individual satisfies the following requirements:

(7) Possess the following required physical characteristics:

(A) Sufficient physical ability to be a school bus driver, as determined by the state school committee. (Title 575 IAC 1-8)

(B) Possession and full normal use of both hands, both arms, both feet, both legs, both eyes, and both ears.

(C) Freedom from any communicable disease that:

- (i) may be transmitted through airborne or droplet means; or
- (ii) requires isolation of the infected person under 410 IAC 1-2.3.

(D) Freedom from any mental, nervous, organic, or functional disease which might impair the person's ability to properly operate a school bus.

(E) This clause does not apply to a school bus monitor. Visual acuity, with or without glasses, of at least 20/40 in each eye and a field of vision with one hundred fifty (150) degree minimum and with depth perception of at least eighty percent (80%) or forty-eight (48) seconds of arc or less angle of stereopsis.

Indiana Code 20-27-9-5(c)(1), in part, states if the special purpose bus has a capacity of more than fifteen passengers, the operator meet the requirements for a school bus driver set forth in I.C. 20-27-8-4

**Physical Fitness Certificate Requirement**

An individual who is or intends to become a school bus driver must obtain a physical examination certificate stating that the individual possesses the physical characteristics required by section 1(a)(7) of this chapter. The certificate shall be made by an individual who is registered in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners after the certified medical examiner has conducted a physical examination of the school bus driver or prospective school bus driver. The school corporation shall determine how the certified medical examiner who is to conduct the physical examination is chosen and who must pay for the physical examination.. (I.C. 20-27-8-4)

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ possesses the physical characteristics required by I.C. 20-27-8-1 to be a school bus driver, school bus monitor, or special purpose bus operator. The certificate of examination shall be filed with the school corporation or employer not more than seven days after the examination. (I.C. 20-27-8-5)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Medical Examiner's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Medical Examiner's medical license number

\_\_\_\_\_  
date of examination

This physical examination expires 24 months from the above date. (I. C. 20-27-8-5)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Medical Examiner's address and telephone number



Occupation (school bus driver) medical	Licensing (CDL) medical
Indiana General Assembly created in the 1920's	CDL came into existence in 1992
State required medical exam - job	Federally required license to drive a vehicle with a capacity > 15
Valid for 2 years	Valid for 2 years
Exam - Certified Medical Examiner	Exam - Certified Medical Examiner
Minimum 80% depth perception	No depth perception requirement
Field-of-view minimum of 150 degrees	Field-of-view minimum of 140 degrees
Driver free of communicable disease spread by airborne or droplet means	No freedom from communicable disease requirement
IC 20-27-8-1 (7) A-E	FMCSA Regulation
Not required to be in possession	Not required to be in possession



# Physical Performance Test

## **IC 20-27-3-4 Powers; bus driver performance standards; certificate of inspection**

Sec. 4. (a) The committee has the following powers:

(b) The committee shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to set performance standards and measurements for determining the physical ability necessary for an individual to be a school bus driver.



# Physical Performance Test Standards

## Rule 8. School Bus Driver Physical Performance Standards and Measurements

575 IAC 1-8-1 Exiting the bus

Authority: IC 20-27-3-4

Affected: IC 20-27-9

Sec. 1. (a) Driver shall demonstrate the ability to exit the bus from a seat belted position in the driver's seat and exiting from the rearmost emergency door.

(b) The measurement is pass/fail.



# Physical Performance Test Standards

## Rule 8. School Bus Driver Physical Performance Standards and Measurements

575 IAC 1-8-2 Quick reaction time between accelerator and service brake

Authority: IC 20-27-3-4

Affected: IC 20-27-9

Sec. 2. (a) Driver shall demonstrate quick reaction time between accelerator and service brake.

(b) In a seat belted position, driver shall with the right foot, alternately depress the accelerator and service brake ten (10) times in ten (10) seconds or less.



# Physical Performance Test Standards

## Rule 8. School Bus Driver Physical Performance Standards and Measurements

575 IAC 1-8-3 Climbing and descending bus service door steps

Authority: IC 20-27-3-4

Affected: IC 20-27-9

Sec. 3. (a) Driver shall demonstrate the ability to climb and descend the bus service door steps in a forward facing position two (2) times without stopping.

(b) The measurement is pass/fail.



# Physical Performance Test Standards

## Rule 8. School Bus Driver Physical Performance Standards and Measurements

575 IAC 1-8-4 Opening and closing bus service door

Authority: IC 20-27-3-4

Affected: IC 20-27-9

Sec. 4. (a) Driver shall demonstrate the ability to open and close the bus service door two (2) times without stopping from a seat belted position.

(b) The measurement is pass/fail.



# Physical Performance Test Standards

## Rule 8. School Bus Driver Physical Performance Standards and Measurements

575 IAC 1-8-5 Operating hand controls or steering wheel

Authority: IC 20-27-3-4

Affected: IC 20-27-9

Sec. 5. (a) Driver shall demonstrate the ability to operate one (1) hand control on each side of the steering wheel while the bus is in a safe forward motion.

(b) The measurement is pass/fail.



# Driver Licensing & Certification – Type A Bus

- ✓ School bus with a capacity of **less than** 16 passengers
- ✓ Special purpose bus with a capacity of **less than** 16 passengers that is providing:
  - Home to school and/or school to home transportation
    - Students with special needs
    - Pre-school students



# Driver Licensing & Certification – Type A Bus

- ✓ Licensing

1. No CDL or DOT physical required

- ✓ Certification – Yellow Card

1. Complete Physical

- A. State Physical Fitness Certificate (held locally)

2. Complete Physical Performance Tests (held locally)





# Driver Licensing & Certification – Other Bus

Special purpose bus with a capacity of **more than** 15 passengers

✓ **Licensing**

1. CDL and DOT physical required

✓ **Certification – Yellow Card**

1. Complete Physical
  - A. State Physical Fitness Certificate (held locally)
2. Complete Physical Performance Tests (held locally)



# Common Pitfalls – CDL Physical

- ✓ Sleep Apnea
  - ❖ Consistent standard
    - Neck size & BMI alone are not sufficient
    - Must have other symptoms as well
- ✓ “Full normal use” – CME decision
- ✓ Diabetes
  - ❖ Allowed – MCSA 5870 treatment form



# Common Pitfalls – State Physical

- ✓ Is the district actually doing the state physical fitness certificate???
- ✓ Expiration
  - ❖ Two years
  - ❖ Not tied to CDL physical expiration



# Common Pitfalls – State Physical

- ✓ Depth perception
  - ❖ Not required for CDL physical
  - ❖ 80% minimum for school bus drivers
    - 80% of stereotest examples correct
    - 48 seconds of arc or less on stereoptic testing machines
- ✓ Freedom from communicable disease
  - ❖ Does not require a TB test



# Recommendations – General Medical Issues

- ✓ Physicals in general
  - ❖ Is the driver physically capable of driving ...

**Your child / grandchild / relative !!!**



# Recommendations – General Medical Issues

- ✓ Return to duty
  - ❖ Return to duty as a school bus driver
- ✓ Work with the district on starting the CDL physical at least 90 days before the expiration date.



# Questions?



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