Utah State Office of Education
Charter School Fall Finance Update and Training

Pupil Transportation Of Charter School Students
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- Utah State Office of Education

Utah School Busing

- Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations, sets forth the standards for all public education school buses and all public education school bus operations within the State of Utah.

Utah School Busing

- In addition, several Utah Codes govern the use of school buses within the State of Utah to ensure uniform safety in all school bus operations regardless of the agency or organization providing the services.

Laws and Standards:

- Hiring requirements
- Certification requirements
- Recertification requirements
- Pre-employment and periodic motor vehicle record (MVR) evaluations
- Pre-employment and periodic BCI Fingerprint FBI background checks
- Pre-employment drug tests and random drug and alcohol testing

Laws and Standards:

- School bus equipment certification requirements (Utah Highway Patrol)
- Biannual school bus inspection requirements (Utah Highway Patrol)
- Certified School Bus Technician requirements
- Other areas dealing with the safe operation of school buses

Laws and Standards:

- Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations that were approved by the Utah State Board of Education on June 4, 2010, and made part of Administrative Rule by reference on August 25, 2011.
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Laws and Standards:

- All references to “school district or private school” in Utah Code or in Administrative Rule include charter schools. The “intent” of Utah Code and Administrative Rule application to all school bus operations in Utah is clear.

Utah Code Reference for School Bus:

- **53-8-211.5. School bus safety standards -- Exceptions.**
  (1) Beginning July 1, 2003, a school district or private school may not use a vehicle with a seating capacity of 11 or more, including the driver, for the transportation of its students unless the vehicle meets federal school bus safety standards under 49 U.S.C. Sec. 30101, et seq.
  (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a vehicle operated by a common carrier, as defined in Section 59-12-102, if the common carrier is not exclusively engaged in the transportation of students.

Utah Code Reference for School Bus:

- **41-6a-1304. School buses -- Rules regarding design and operation.**
  (1) (a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Department of Transportation by and with the advice of the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Safety shall adopt and enforce rules, not inconsistent with this chapter, to govern the design and operation of all school buses in this state when:
  (i) owned and operated by any school district;
  (ii) privately owned and operated under contract with a school district; or
  (iii) privately owned for use by a private school.
  (b) The rules under this Subsection (1) shall by reference be made a part of any contract with a school district or private school to operate a school bus.
  (2) Every school district or private school, its officers and employees, and every person employed under contract by a school district or private school shall be subject to the rules under Subsection (1).
  Amended by Chapter 382, 2008 General Session

Administrative Rule Reference for School Bus:

- R909-3-2. Adoption of Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations Standards 2010 Edition.
- (1) In Cooperation with the Utah State Office of Education and the Department of Public Safety, The Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations and Appendix as contained in the 2010 Edition, is incorporated by reference, except for Part, "Finance, School District".
- (a) The Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations is published by the Utah State Office of Education and can be found at http://www.schools.utah.gov/finance/DOCS/Transportation/2010-BusStandards.aspx.
- (b) The 2010 Standards Appendix is published by the Utah State Office of Education and can be found at http://www.schools.utah.gov/finance/DOCS/Transportation/2010-StandardsAppendix.aspx.
- (2) These requirements apply to the design and operation of all school buses in this state when:
- (a) owned and operated by any school district;
- (b) privately owned and operated under contract with a school district; or
- (c) privately owned for use by a private school.

Administrative Rule Reference for School Bus:

- R909-3-3. Advertisement on School Buses.
- (1) In addition to the restrictions listed in Section 41-6a-1309 advertisements placed on a bus may not:
- (a) cover, obscure or interfere with the operation of any required lighting, reflective tape, emergency exits or any other safety equipment;
- (b) be placed within six inches of any required markings, lighting or other required safety equipment;
- (c) resemble a traffic control device; or
- (d) be illuminated or be constructed of reflective material.

Minimum Supervision Requirements for Charter Schools:

- Designated supervisor or administrator responsible for all compliance of school buses and school bus drivers.
- Drug and alcohol Program Coordinator who is certified and annually re-certified.
- Instructor who is certified and annually re-certified or contract for certified instructor services.
- Shop technician who is certified or contract for certified shop technician services.

Possible Options for Compliance:

- Contracted school bus services with a local school district or a private school bus contractor.
- Agreement with a local school district for training, certification and supervision of school bus drivers.
- Agreement with local school district for maintenance of school buses.
- Employment of a certified Utah school bus driver instructor who is responsible for all areas of compliance of school bus drivers and school buses.
- Agreement with a local school bus vender for the maintenance of school buses.

Possible Options for Compliance:

- Partnering with other charter schools to hire a certified Utah school bus driver instructor who is responsible for all areas of compliance of school bus drivers and school buses.
- Certifying a school bus driver employee as a Utah school bus driver instructor. To meet the minimum requirements, they need to have at least three years of driving experience with a good driving record and full certification as a Utah school bus driver. The one-week state certification is held annually during the month of June, and requires preregistration.

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- School Bus Safety Inspection (UHP) 801-965-4889
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- Max Thomas – (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Intermountain MRO Services Inc. (801) 913-0389
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- Standards for Utah School Buses and Operations available at: www.schools.utah.gov/finance