



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INEZ MOORE TENENBAUM  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Transportation Directors/Supervisors and SDE Driver Training Instructors

**FROM:** John H. Dozier, Director Of Safety And Information

**DATE:** April 9, 2004

**RE:** Minimum Hours Of Behind-The-Wheel Skills Training For Drivers Possessing A Valid Commercial Driver License With Passenger Endorsement Prior To Enrollment In A School Bus Driver Training Class

The revised hours of behind-the-wheel skills training for a prospective school bus driver possessing a valid commercial driver license (CDL) with a passenger endorsement prior to enrollment in a school bus driver training class must be followed starting on, but not before, May 1, 2004. Until then, the existing rules are still in effect and must be followed.

A prospective school bus driver possessing a valid CDL with a passenger endorsement prior to enrollment in a school bus driver training class must complete a minimum of five (5) hours of on bus Behind-The-Wheel (BTW) driving skills training and observation. These five (5) hours of minimum training shall be delivered as two (2) hours of actual BTW driving time and three (3) hours of on bus observation. The three (3) hours of observation may occur: 1. While training in conjunction with other prospective school bus driver candidates. 2. While on an actual school bus route observing an SDE Certified BTW Training Instructor or Certified Safety Officer. Verification of training times must be recorded on SDE form S-6 (Behind-the-Wheel Verification Report).

The following table compares basic elements of the old and new hours of behind-the-wheel skills training for this particular group of prospective drivers:

	<b>OLD RULES</b>	<b>NEW RULES</b>
<b>Actual Driving Time</b>	10 hours	2 hours
<b>Observation Time</b>	None	3 hours
<b>Person Delivering Training</b>	Certified SDE BTW Trainer or Certified Safety Officer	Certified SDE BTW Trainer or Certified Safety Officer
<b>Verification of Training</b>	SDE Form S-6	SDE Form S-6

**Note: This policy change does not prohibit a trainer/safety officer from delivering more than five (5) hours of training instruction that may be necessary for some candidates.**