

School Bus Driver

Definition

School bus drivers transport students, regardless of the number, to and from schools in Nebraska. Drivers ensure adherence to safety rules and may assist passengers in boarding or exiting.

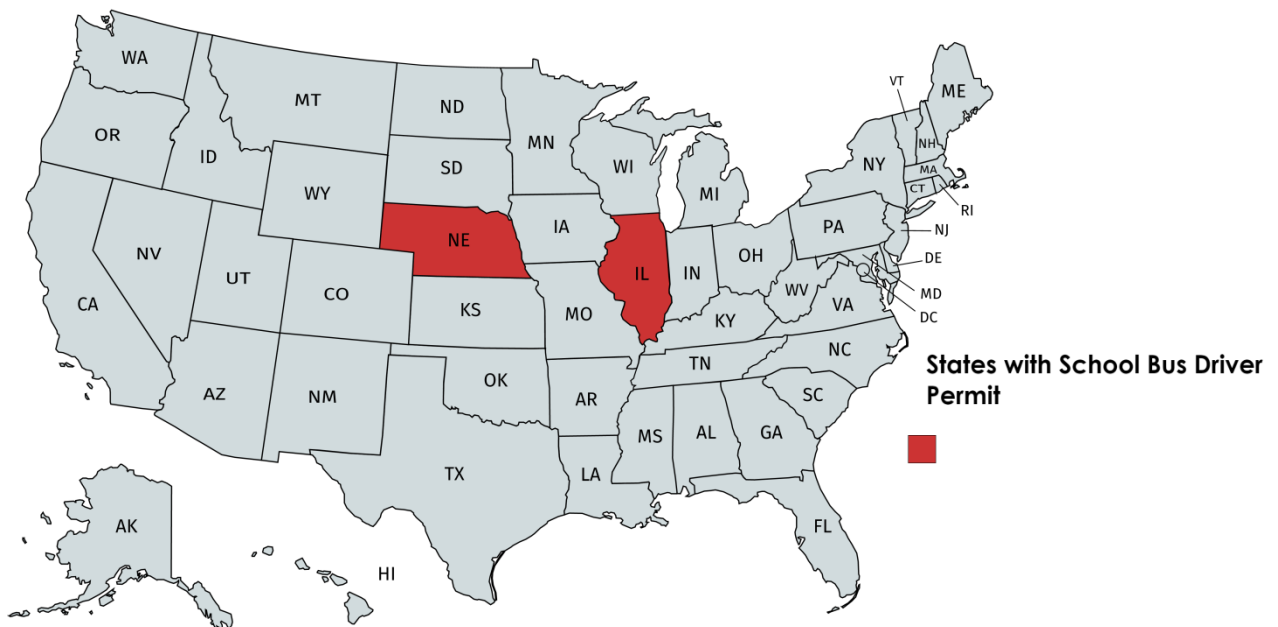
What LB 347 does

School bus drivers are already required to obtain a CDL with a special designation to carry passengers in Nebraska. This legislation will remove the Department of Motor Vehicles from the school bus permit process and allow the Nebraska Department of Education to regulate school bus drivers and authorize them. This legislation repeals the duplicative requirement of two separate state agencies issuing the permit. The Department of Education is supportive of eliminating this permit.

State Specific Information

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 (MCSIA) was enacted by Congress. Nebraska adopted the MCSIA requirements which went into effect in 2005. The MCSIA covers all vehicles over 26,000 pounds or which carry 16 or more passengers including the driver. The "S" (school bus) endorsement was created for operators of school buses where the operator is required to hold a CDL. Under federal law, a CDL holder must have an "S" and "P" (passenger) endorsement to drive a school bus in all 50 states.

Many states had school bus permits prior to the 1985 federal legislation for CDLs and the 1999 federal legislation to ensure the safety of their school bus drivers. Almost all states that had this permit have eliminated this provision in lieu of the redundancy of the federal CDL laws. The only states that still require a school bus driver permit are Illinois and Nebraska.



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