

# Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles



## **School Transportation**

*Driver and Vehicle Requirements*



# School Transportation - Vehicle Options

## *Student Transportation Options from Home to School and School to Home*

For transportation as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-1



**School Bus** A school bus is a motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency, when operated for the transportation of children to or from school; or privately owned, when operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.



**Pupil Transportation Vehicle** A pupil transportation vehicle is a motor vehicle designed and constructed to be used by a school committee to provide the transportation services required by law or regulation to students on routes where only small numbers of students are being conveyed.



# RI School Transportation Options

## RI Vehicle Requirements



Vehicle Requirement	School Bus	Pupil Transportation Vehicle (PTV)
<b>Max Seating Capacity</b>	71 + Driver*	7 + Driver**
<b>Minimum Vehicle Design Standards</b>	Must meet all Federal <b>School Bus</b> Safety Standards	Must Meet all Federal <b>Passenger Vehicle</b> Safety Standards
<b>Safety Inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every six (6) months at DMV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually at DMV</li> </ul>

\*Limited only by manufacturer certification

\*\*Limited by RIGL § 31-22.1-1



# School Transportation – Vehicles in Service

## Active Vehicles by District Served

Vehicles Actively Registered and Inspected as of 1/8/2025

School District	School Bus	PTV	Total Vehicles
BARRINGTON	16		16
<b>BLOCK ISLAND*</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>
BRISTOL - WARREN	31		31
BURRILLVILLE	17	1	18
CENTRAL FALLS	3		3
CHARIHO	57	1	58
CHARTER SCHOOL	81		81
COVENTRY	42	2	44
<b>CRANSTON*</b>	<b>88</b>		<b>88</b>
CUMBERLAND	72	5	77
EAST GREENWICH	36	2	38
EAST PROVIDENCE	61	23	84
EXETER	23		23
EXETER - WEST			
GREENWICH	7		7
FOSTER	4		4
GLOCESTER	23	2	25
JAMESTOWN	6		6
JOHNSTON	44		44
LINCOLN	64		64
LITTLE COMPTON	4		4

*\*Owned/operated by City/Town*

School District	School Bus	PTV	Total Vehicles
MIDDLETOWN	24	3	27
<b>NARRAGANSETT*</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>
NEWPORT	16		16
<b>NORTH KINGSTOWN*</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>
NORTH PROVIDENCE	42		42
NORTH SMITHFIELD	3		3
PAWTUCKET	41		41
PORTSMOUTH	33	1	34
PROVIDENCE	212	2	214
SCITUATE	18		18
SMITHFIELD	32		32
SOUTH KINGSTON	40		40
STATEWIDE	240	274	514
TIVERTON	23		23
WARWICK	111		111
WEST WARWICK	34		34
<b>WESTERLY*</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>
WOONSOCKET	25		25
	<b>1657</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>1983</b>



# School Transportation – Drivers in Service

## School Bus Certificate Holders

Active School Bus Certificate Holders by District Served as of 1/8/2025

District Served	School Bus Certificate Holders
BARRINGTON	1
BURRILLVILLE	39
CENTRAL FALLS	4
CHARIHO	63
COVENTRY	45
CRANSTON	149
CUMBERLAND	88
EAST GREENWICH	2
EAST PROVIDENCE	113
EXETER	52
GLOCESTER	17
JAMESTOWN	37
JOHNSTON	45
LINCOLN	96
MIDDLETOWN	30
NARRAGANSETT	15
NEW SHOREHAM	2
NEWPORT	9

c	School Bus Certificate Holders
NORTH KINGSTOWN	42
NORTH PROVIDENCE	61
NORTH SMITHFIELD	22
OUT OF STATE	9
PAWTUCKET	73
PORTSMOUTH	31
PROVIDENCE	278
SCITUATE	16
SMITHFIELD	26
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	42
STATEWIDE	3
TIVERTON	26
WARREN	50
WARWICK	96
WEST WARWICK	95
WESTERLY	24
WOONSOCKET	17

**Active School Bus Certificate Holders 1718**

**Active Pupil Transportation Certificate Holders 398**

NOTE: Current holders of a valid school bus certificate are not required to obtain a pupil transportation certificate to operate pupil transportation vehicles per 280-RICR-30-05-5, section 5.5(D) .



# RI School Transportation Options

## RI Operator Requirements



<b><i>Operator Requirement</i></b>	<b><i>School Bus</i></b>	<b><i>Pupil Transportation Vehicle (PTV)</i></b>
<b><i><u>Federal License Requirements</u></i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDL License (Class B*, C, or A)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Bus Endorsement</li> <li>• Passenger Endorsement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">*Most Common</p>	NONE
<b><i><u>RI License Requirements</u></i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI School Bus Certificate (“White Card”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chauffeur License</li> <li>• RI PTV Certificate</li> </ul>
<b><i><u>Operator Background Checks</u></i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhode Island BCI Check Annually (Includes sexual offender check)</li> <li>• Driving Record Check Annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhode Island BCI Check Annually (Includes sexual offender check)</li> <li>• Driving Record Check Annually</li> </ul>
<b><i><u>Operator Training Requirements</u></i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 hours RI Specific initially - (CCRI)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-road test required initially</li> </ul> </li> <li>• School Bus Knowledge test required initially and every 10 years thereafter</li> <li>• 3 hours training required annually - (CCRI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTV Knowledge test required initially</li> </ul>
<b><i><u>Medical Certification</u></i></b>	US DOT physical approval required annually	Medical examiner’s approval letter required annually



# RI School Transportation Options

## School Bus / PTV Certificate

What is it and what are the requirements?

A School Bus Certificate or a Pupil Transportation Certificate (aka “White Card”) is a credential that confirms an applicant has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Division of Motor Vehicles, that they have met all requirements and passed all checks specific to Rhode Island Law.

These state specific requirements include:

- ✓ Driver Training with RI specific curriculum as defined by [law](#)
- ✓ Driver Background Checks
- ✓ Driving Record Checks
- ✓ Proper Medical Certification
  - ✓ For CDL/School Bus – Must be a US DOT approved physician
  - ✓ For PTV - Medical examination letter (can be from a personal physician)



# RI School Transportation Options

## School Bus / PTV Certificate

### How requirements vary by state

RI, MA, and CT all require state specific certifications in addition to the CDL licensing requirements for School Bus Drivers. This is because each state has specific laws and requirements pertaining to school transportation and these requirements vary slightly from state to state. A few examples are as follows:

Requirement	RI	CT	MA
<b>PA systems on School Buses</b>	Required to announce departure after children have disembarked	Not required	Not Required
<b>Monitors for elementary schools</b>	Required	Not required	By District
<b>Distance before stop at which amber lights are required</b>	250	200	100





# RI School Transportation Options

## School Bus Operator Requirements RI/MA/CT



Requirement	RI	CT	MA
<b>License</b>	CDL License (Class B, C, or A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Bus Endorsement</li> <li>• Passenger Endorsement</li> </ul>	CDL License (Class B, C, or A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Bus Endorsement</li> <li>• Passenger Endorsement</li> </ul>	CDL License (Class B, C, or A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Bus Endorsement</li> <li>• Passenger Endorsement</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Certifications Required</b>	RI School Bus Certificate (“White Card”)	PPE Endorsement (S)	MA School Bus Certificate
<b>Recertification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 hours training required annually - (CCRI)</li> <li>• Background &amp; driving record checks</li> <li>• School Bus Knowledge test required every 10 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Road test every 4 Years	Annually



# RI School Transportation Options

## PTV Operator Requirements RI/MA/ CT



Requirement	RI Pupil Transportation Vehicle	CT Student Transportation Vehicle	MA (7D) School Pupil Trans Vehicle
<b>Max Capacity</b>	7 + Driver	7 + Driver	10 + Driver
<b>License Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operator License</li> <li>Chauffeur Endorsement</li> </ul>	Operator License	Operator License
<b>Additional Certifications Required</b>	RI PTV Certificate	PPE Endorsement (V) *Public Passenger Endorsement	MA 7D Certificate
<b>Recertification</b>	Annually	?	Annually