

UNIT ONE - INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

The purpose of the Colorado School Bus Driver Trainer's Manual is to reduce the potential for school bus crashes and injury or death to school children while being transported to and from school or on school-sponsored trips. This manual provides information necessary for training school bus drivers. It includes all of the basic information to develop a training program to fit the needs of your districts student transportation requirements.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS MANUAL

This manual is designed to improve school bus driver competency in Colorado. Competent school bus drivers are needed to provide safe and efficient transportation for student riders. The vital link to safety, proper attitude, knowledge, and skill must be developed through interest in safe driving. This is accomplished by improving the driver's ability to cope with the constantly changing driving environment through intensive pre-service training as well as continuing in-service training and activities. Safe transportation of students to and from school and school related activities is an integral part of a sound educational program.

IMPORTANCE OF THE DRIVER

The successful bus driver observes all traffic signs, rules, and regulations. The public expects top driving performance from members of the school bus driving force. The motoring public may relate improper driver actions to the total school program.

Five keys to being a successful school bus driver are:

- Competence
- Positive attitude
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Safety awareness

A professional driver is generally predictable in his/her behavior. The effective bus driver will be consistent in the management of student behavior. Students respect and obey a person they can count on to act in a controlled manner at all times. Students relate to someone who is friendly, yet firm, and respectful. Inconsistency and lack of discipline may lead students to become disruptive. The successful driver understands and complies with all laws, CDE Rules For The Operation of School Transportation Vehicles – 301-26, and Colorado traffic laws.

Any organization whose members work as a team with mutual friendliness, interest, and respect will create an image that will be respected by the public.