



COLORADO
Department of Education

Memo

To: School Districts, Charter Schools, and Service Providers
From: Susan M. Miller, Supervisor, School Transportation Unit
Date: April 14, 2025
Re: **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) DOT Physical Change Effective April 28, 2025, and Passenger Endorsement**

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

FMCSA has announced that beginning June 23, 2025, Medical Examiners (ME) will no longer be required to issue the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to commercial learner's permit (CLP)/commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants/holders as proof of medical certification. The original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, may be provided to CLP/CDL applicants/holders upon request. However, the only official record of the CLP/CDL applicant's/holder's qualification status will be the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA to be entered in the driver's Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) record.

On June 23, 2025, FMCSA will begin electronically transmitting Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information for CLP/CDL applicants/holders from the National Registry to the SDLAs for posting to the driver's CDLIS record. This will be the only official record of the qualification status for CLP/CDL applicants/holders. For these drivers, the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, will no longer be considered official proof of medical certification.

In Colorado, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has informed us that all valid Medical Examiner Certification (MEC) information is currently and will continue to be included on the driver's MVR. If the MVR does not include MEC information, then it is not on file with the DMV and the driver should contact their medical provider to ensure proper input to the National Registry. Colorado will be implementing electronic receipt of MECs on April 28, 2025. The DMV will continue to accept paper documentation until June 23, 2025, upon which paper documentation will no longer be accepted. Drivers can request a copy of the MEC from the medical provider, but the providers are not required to provide this service.

When the Transportation Unit reviews operator qualification files during our STAR Reviews, districts, charter schools, and service providers must provide proof that CDL operators have a current DOT physical. Without evidence of a current/valid DOT physical drivers are **immediately** prohibited from operating a commercial vehicle which can cause great concern for transportation departments to have an operator removed from service on short notice. **Therefore, it will be critical that all districts, charter schools, and service providers create a process to review and monitor DOT physicals constantly to ensure that all operators have a current DOT physical at all times.**

Passenger Endorsement

It has been brought to our attention that there may be some confusion over licensures regarding who can and cannot operate a commercial vehicle (school bus, multifunction bus, motorcoach).

- It is illegal to operate a commercial vehicle, with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 26,001 lbs. that can transport **16 or more passengers**, without a commercial operator's license.
- It is illegal to transport any passengers in a commercial vehicle with **just a commercial operator learner permit.**
- It is illegal to operate a vehicle that has the capability of transporting 16 or more passengers, without a passenger endorsement **whether there are passengers on board or not.** This includes mechanical technicians

Per 385.5 Any CDL driver that is operating a “school bus”, whether there are students on board or not, is required to have the “P” Endorsement. Simply because the vehicle you are driving is a passenger vehicle; it is designed to transport passengers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Miller_s@cde.state.co.us