



## Bus Drivers Needed!

The critical shortage of bus drivers affects a school district's ability to provide safe and timely transportation for students and results in higher costs and can impact student learning.

	Current Issues	Support needed
Job Perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The job is demanding, the responsibility for students' safety is high, and the schedule is unique.</li> <li>Average bus driver vacancy rates in Monroe County are 8% but range across the County from 0-20%. Vacancies drive down productivity and increase costs for transportation that districts can ill afford.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ NYS must maintain expense based transportation aid at levels that permit districts to cover wages, and offer benefits needed to hire and retain drivers. The tax levy cap limits a districts ability to fund this without proper support from the state.</li> </ul>
Licensing and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The training is intensive; it can take as long as 3-4 months to complete, and is mostly unpaid. CDL road tests typically take 2-6 weeks to schedule after training is completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ NYS needs to set up more CDL testing locations regionally across the state.</li> <li>✓ The federal government and NYS should consider separate licensing requirements for bus drivers.</li> </ul>
Mandates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the past 10 years, demands on districts transportation systems increased substantially. Transportation under the McKinney-Vento regulations and for charter school students have significantly contributed to this demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ NYS must consider the impact on district transportation systems when adding new mandates. There is no mechanism for districts to absorb additional costs under the tax levy cap.</li> </ul>

**MCSBA asks for State and Federal assistance to ensure district transportation systems can provide for students safe and timely arrival to school and back home.**