



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"> The job is demanding, the responsibility for students' safety is high, and the schedule is unique. Nearly every district in Monroe County has experienced bus driver shortages. The pandemic has also negatively impacted bus driver employment since the majority of drivers currently employed are in the high risk population for contracting COVID-19. Vacancies drive down productivity and increase costs for transportation that districts can ill afford. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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.
Licensing and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The training is intensive; it can take as long as 3-4 months to complete. CDL road tests typically take 2-6 weeks to schedule after training is completed. Competition for drivers has forced most districts to cover lengthy training costs and has escalated district expenses for acquiring drivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NYS needs to set up more CDL testing locations regionally across the state. ✓ The federal government and NYS should consider separate licensing requirements for school bus drivers.
Mandates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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.

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.