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New Standards for Bus Drivers & LEAs Offering Transportation Services

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The General Assembly issued Public Chapter 298 in May of 2017. The Public Chapter acted to redefine the standards for bus drivers as well as to implement policies and procedures for schools with transportation services.

T.C.A. § 49-6-2118, outlines the requirements for any local education agency (“LEA”) charter school, and charter management organization, that provides or contracts for transportation services. The statute requires that each LEA appoint a transportation supervisor to monitor and oversee transportation services. The supervisor shall complete a student transportation management training program and a minimum of four (4) hours of annual training, thereafter. The position is to be filled by February 15, 2018 and the name of the supervisor submitted to the department of education.

Each LEA shall adopt a transportation policy that includes (1) a procedure for reporting complaints, (2) a procedure for investigating complaints within 24 hours and a preliminary report issued within 48 hours, (3) a phone number for reporting, (4) a process for informing parents and students of notice procedure, (5) a policy or procedure for collection and maintenance of inspection records, bus driver credentials, training records, and complaints.

The department of education is responsible for delivering a transportation management training program,(2) a system for monitoring school’s compliance with transportation laws, and (3) annual guidelines for best practices.

T.C.A. § 48-6-2107 was amended to require that any new school bus driver complete a bus driver training program promulgated by the departments of education and safety.

T.C.A. § 55-50-302 is amended to require that any applicant for a bus driving position be at least 25 years old, have had at least five (5) consecutive years of unrestricted driving experience prior to the date of application; and that the department be fully satisfied as to the applicant’s good character, competency, and fitness to be so employed.

Clifton N. Miller and Erica R. Marino are available to consult with school systems and other governmental entities regarding these and related matters.



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