



**South Carolina Department of Education
Office of Transportation
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-8245**

South Carolina Department of Education School Bus Driver Certificate Categories

Buses are categorized as fully functional school bus (FFSB) or multi-functional school activity bus (MFSAB). Some buses require a commercial driver's license (CDL) to operate, others only a regular driver's license.

Type A, Commercial: Driver can operate any FFSB or MFSAB regardless of passenger capacity rating or weight. This certificate requires a valid Class B CDL with Passenger Vehicle (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements.

Type A, Non-Commercial: Driver can operate any FFSB or MFSAB with a passenger capacity rating of 15 or fewer, including the driver. This certificate requires a valid driver's license which meets the requirements in State and Federal law to operate a non-commercial school bus type vehicle with no restrictions other than vision correction to qualify for issuance.

Type B, Commercial: Driver can operate any MFSAB regardless of passenger capacity rating. This certificate requires a valid Class B CDL with Passenger Vehicle (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements.

Type B, Non-Commercial: Driver can operate any MFSAB with a passenger capacity rating of 15 or fewer, including the driver. This certificate requires a valid driver's license which meets the requirements in State and Federal law to operate a non-commercial school bus type vehicle with no restrictions other than vision correction to qualify for issuance.

Type C, Commercial: Driver can operate any FFSB owned by a private school, regardless of passenger capacity rating. This certificate requires a valid Class B CDL with Passenger Vehicle (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements.

Type C, Non-Commercial: Driver can operate any FFSB with a passenger capacity rating of 15 or fewer, including the driver, owned by a private school. This certificate requires a valid driver's license which meets the requirements in State and Federal law to operate a non-commercial school bus type vehicle with no restrictions other than vision correction to qualify for issuance.

According to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) *49 CFR §383.123 Requirements for a school bus endorsement*, drivers who have a CDL without a P or S endorsement must take skills and road tests in a commercial vehicle designed to carry pre-primary through secondary students to and from school or school related activities.