

10 Reasons to become a school bus driver!!

1. You Have Great People Skills.

Having strong communication skills is a must for all bus drivers. A career as a bus driver means being around different types of people every day. This can include teachers, parents, school officials and of course, kids! Empathy and understanding is a must when it comes to helping anxious children or concerned parents. Being able to communicate and understand all types of personalities are important traits for successful bus drivers.

2. You Enjoy Working with Kids.

If you love kids, a career as a bus driver could be very rewarding. Having the ability to make the children feel comfortable is just as important as knowing how to drive the bus. The duties of a school bus driver aren't just confined to driving. You become an important and steady person in these young children's lives. Each day gives you the opportunities to get a child's day started off right and remind them that they are special and important.

3. You Enjoy Driving.

Controlling a large vehicle can seem intimidating to some, while others may love the idea. If the challenge of driving a larger bus on the road every day excites you.

4. You Care about the Safety of Children.

Fortunately, the number of school bus accidents per year is very small. This is because of careful drivers who make the safety of their passengers their top priority. Quality drivers make sure to monitor onboard conduct and see that the kids make it into their homes. They also enforce safe board and de-board procedures on a daily basis. The ability to balance **concentration between the road** and the onboard conduct of kids is a unique skill needed for the job. Putting the safety of children above all else is the most important aspect of the job.

5. You're Calm Under Pressure.

A lot goes on inside and outside of a school bus. Bus drivers face severe weather conditions, difficult children, and overwhelming road construction at any time on the road. Bullying, fighting, and even celebrations can get out of hand on the school bus. If you have a patient manner and are able to keep a clear head when unexpected issues come up, these situations may seem like less of a challenge.

6. A Flexible Schedule is a Plus.

A typical bus driver usually works early in the morning then late in the afternoon with a long break in-between. There is also the option of driving to and from field trips or other school activities for extra hours. A **bus driving career could be the ideal solution** if you're trying to avoid the ordinary 9 to 5 job.

7. Looking for a Job with Benefits.

More and more often, the term "work-life balance" is becoming an important factor in job searches. Certain benefits offered in your career are important in maintaining this balance. Benefits can include paid holidays, vacation days, health and life insurance, and a retirement plan.

8. No Interest in a Four-Year Degree.

Starting a school bus career doesn't require spending four years in college. Every driver must go through a **training program and receive their CDL** before employment. The program can be completed in as little as 6-weeks. No prior bus driving experience is needed in order to begin.

9. Good Paying Job.

Extra earning opportunities are usually available as well. There are also several opportunities to pick up extra hours, as well as receive employee benefits from the school. You will often see bus drivers pick up other positions within the school like para educator, custodian or even cafeteria help.

10. You Can't Afford Training.

School bus drivers are essential employees with a very important job to accomplish. We will train you to become a top-quality employee and driver. Besides general driving practices and vehicle maintenance, the training program teaches important safety rules and emergency procedures.

For more information about the requirements to become a school bus driver or to learn more about the current positions available, please contact Monica Mulligan at the Chimacum / Port Townsend Co-Op 360-302-5812