

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOTE** No. T-08-01



Department of Education  
Jeanine Blomberg, Commissioner

*School Business Services*  
*School Transportation Management Section*

Contact:  
Mike Starzinski

**Status of School Bus Safety Inspectors**

(850) 245-9795  
SC 205-9795

---

**DATE:** August 23, 2007

**TO:** District Transportation Directors  
District Service Managers  
Charter School Contacts

**FROM:** Charlie Hood, Director  
School Transportation Management

**SUBJECT:** Status of School Bus Safety Inspectors

Ensuring access to educational programs requires that students be transported in safe, properly inspected, and properly maintained vehicles. School buses used to transport students in Florida must be inspected by certified inspectors (Section 1006.22, Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-3.0171, Florida Administrative Code). This memorandum and its associated report (sent under separate cover) provide updated information regarding the certification status of district school bus safety inspectors.

School bus safety inspections must be performed by certified "active" inspectors. The certification status of district school bus safety inspectors, inspector trainers, and non-certified technicians will be provided to each district transportation director in a customized report. Inspectors who are not in "active" status may not perform statutorily required school bus safety inspections. The report will help districts and charter schools identify inspectors who will need to take their recertification tests this year and inspectors of record who did not recertify last year.

Please note that the status of your inspectors will be based upon the latest information provided to us regarding the individuals' employment status. When you receive your district's report, please notify us regarding any information that is incorrect or not current. Please review the report; if you discover any errors or omissions, please note them and return the corrected report to:

Michael Starzinski  
School Transportation Management  
Florida Department of Education  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1134  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400  
(850) 245-9935 (FAX)

Inspectors and Inspector-Trainers must recertify in the fifth calendar year of their certification (they may recertify anytime between January 1 and December 31 of their fifth year). The report will provide the inspectors' original certification (or most recent recertification) dates. To identify inspectors who will need to take recertification tests this calendar year and inspectors who did not recertify last year, add five (5) to the year shown in the "Certification Date" column of the report. For example, inspectors or trainers who certified (or recertified) in 2002 are due to recertify during 2007 and inspectors and trainers who certified (or recertified) in 2001 were due to recertify on or before December 31, 2006.

Any inspector whose certification has expired and who wishes to regain certification as an inspector will be required to successfully complete the entire initial certification process, including training, written testing, and hands-on testing.

We continue to encourage districts and charter schools to schedule recertification testing as early in the calendar year as possible. Recertification candidates are allowed to take the test a maximum of two times. If they fail their second attempt, they will be required to successfully complete the entire initial certification process, including training, written testing, and hands-on testing in order to retain (or regain) their certification. If they fail their recertification tests, but then take and pass both initial certification tests on or before December 31, they will retain their certifications. If candidates take (and fail) their recertification tests too late in the year, it may be too late for them to get into an initial certification testing session, as there are a limited number of initial certification testing sessions scheduled each calendar year.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information related to school bus inspector certification or recertification, please call Mike Starzinski at (850) 245-9795, or e-mail [Michael.Starzinski@fldoe.org](mailto:Michael.Starzinski@fldoe.org).

CFH/mas