

George's Transportation Company, Inc.
84 Ashtown Dr.
Lehighton, PA 18235
(610)377-5511
lgbusing@georgesbusing.com



Lehighton Area School District
1000 Union Street
Lehighton, PA 18235

6/9/2026

To Whom It May Concern:

As the challenge to hire qualified bus drivers continues, we would like to bring to your attention the ability for a bus driver to transport passengers without a School Bus Endorsement on their Commercial Driver's License.

The School Bus Endorsement that can be carried with a Commercial Driver's License allows the driver to safely load and unload students using their 8-way school bus lights, side stop sign, and front crossing arm while displaying "SCHOOL BUS" on the front and rear of the vehicle and harboring a license plate beginning with "SC". School bus stops are generally done on public roadways when bringing students to or from the school building. A Passenger Endorsement is required along with the School Bus Endorsement when operating a school bus with the use of the 8-way school bus lights, side stop sign, and front crossing arm while displaying "SCHOOL BUS" on the front and rear of the vehicle and harboring a license plate beginning with "SC".

To maintain a valid School Bus Endorsement, the driver must carry a valid School Bus Driver's Physical Examination (lasting 13 months) and complete a recertification process every four years. The recertification process involves a minimum of seven hours of classroom training, a minimum of three hours of in-bus training, passing a School Bus Knowledge Test at a PA DMV, and passing a road test in a school bus with a certified School Bus Trainer.

Any Commercial Driver License holder with a Passenger Endorsement and valid Medical Examiner's Certificate (lasting three months to two years contingent of physical exam) can drive a school bus when it is categorized as charter busing and the 8-way school bus lights, side stop sign, and front crossing arm are not used. The "SCHOOL BUS" signs on the front

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and rear of the bus must be covered when operating in this manner and the bus must have a license plate beginning with "BA" or "BN". Drivers holding only a School Bus Physical may not drive charter busing without a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate, they would have to hold both valid physicals.

George's Transportation Company, Inc. and Leon A. George II School Buses, Inc. are sister companies with the latter holding PUC rights, meaning they own and operate buses with "BA" and "BN" license plates used for charter. These buses can legally be used for trips, including sports, field trips, and competitions, with a driver holding a Commercial Driver's License with a Passenger Endorsement (without a School Bus Endorsement) and valid Medical Examiner's Certificate. Both of our companies will continue to require all drivers, school bus and charter, to hold all necessary clearances required to drive school students (Child Abuse Clearance, Criminal History Clearance, and Fingerprinting).

With this information in consideration, we do not believe these charter drivers should require School Board approval as other charter companies hired for trips would not provide the same criteria to the district. These drivers however could be approved in a separate classification from regular School Bus Route drivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leon A. George II', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leon A. George II
President
George's Transportation Company, Inc.