## Clarification on School Transportation Driver Physicals Blood Pressure Requirements

## Posted March 4, 2009 Pupil Transportation Office Ohio Department of Education

Each school bus driver and school van driver is required to meet physical qualifications as set forth in rule 3301-83-07 of the Ohio Administrative Code<sup>1</sup>.

One of the qualifications in this code pertains to the driver's blood pressure. The following is offered as clarification of the requirements for evaluating blood pressure and required follow-up.

- 1) A driver who has blood pressure not higher than 160/90 mmHg has passed the blood pressure requirement.
- 2) A driver who has blood pressure higher than 181/105 mm Hg has failed the blood pressure requirement, and subsequently does not meet the physical qualifications standard.
- 3) A driver who has blood pressure between 161-180 systolic and/or 91-104 diastolic may be granted a temporary certificate from the examining physician. The following additional follow-up visits are required:
  - a. Within 90 days the driver must be retested by the examining physician (who performed the T-8 exam). The blood pressure must be not higher than 160/90 mmHg at that retest in order to remain physically qualified.
  - b. A 6 month check up is required from the driver's treating physician (not necessarily the T-8 physician). At this check the blood pressure must be not higher than 160/90 mmHg in order to remain physically qualified.

<b>Blood Pressure</b>	Outcome	Required retest	Required retest
Less than 160/90	Passes BP test	n/a	n/a
BP 161-180 diastolic	Conditional pass	90 day retest by	6 month (from date of
and/or 91-104	– followup	T-8 physician –	T-8) check by
systolic	required	must be less than	treating physician –
		160/90 or driver	must be less than
		is disqualified	160/90 or driver is
			disqualified
Greater than 180/104	Fails physical	n/a	n/a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49-Transportation, Part 390.3 (f)(1), all school bus operations as defined in 390.5 are exempt from DOT physicals. 390.5 defines school buses as vehicles being used to transport only school children and/or school personnel.

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