



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Colt Gill

Director of the Oregon Department of Education

May 21, 2020

To all Superintendents and Transportation Staff:

On April 16, 2020 the State Board of Education passed temporary rules modifying existing rules in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 581, Division 53 pertaining to school bus driver and school activity vehicle driver certification requirements in light of the COVID-19 disease and its complicating effects on the operations of pupil transportation entities serving Oregon students. Those temporary rules were to remain in effect until June 30, 2020. However, as the effects of the COVID-19 disease and precautions taken to mitigate its spread have proven to last longer and affect more than previously anticipated. The temporary rules also authorized the Director of the Oregon Department of Education to extend their effect for good cause. Pursuant to this power:

- The previously established certificate requirement of having received approved classroom instruction in OAR [581-053-0220](#) waived through OAR [581-053-0009](#) shall be waived through October 31, 2020.
- Requirements pertaining to receiving approved classroom instruction shall be temporarily waived for new drivers by allowing certificate permits to be valid through October 31, 2020. New drivers shall continue to be trained in first aid and be subject to physical examinations.
- Driving certificates and approvals requiring only a standard driver license shall be granted to an applicant for renewal regardless of expired status, provided no disqualifying driving or criminal records exist for the applicant and DMV is unable to issue a qualified renewal. Such approvals shall be valid through October 31, 2020.

Thank you for your continued efforts to provide safe and equitable transportation to those we serve.

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Director of the Oregon Department of Education