

Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles

2020

# School Pupil (7D) Vehicle Training Curriculum

# Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Inspection

## ► Pre-Trip Inspection

- The applicant must learn the importance of vehicle inspections and should develop the skills necessary for conducting pre-trip inspections (M.G.L. C 90 S7B)

## ► Post-Trip Inspection

- The applicant must learn that it is imperative to check the vehicle interior, including spaces in, around, or under the seats for children seated, sleeping, or hiding.



# Unique Features of the 7D Vehicle

- ▶ The applicant must be familiar with signs, such as flashing red school lights, safety equipment, exits, windows, doors, etc.



# Mirrors and Reference Points, Visual Search

- The purpose is to enable applicants to visually search the road for potential hazards and critical objects.





# On-Road Skills



- The purpose is to ascertain the overall driving skills of the applicant. The applicant should drive a route that has a variety of traffic situations. The applicant must drive in a safe and responsible manner.



## Turns, Right and Left

- ▶ Make certain the applicant is checking traffic in all directions, that they use turn signals and safely get into the lane needed for the turn.
- ▶ The applicant should keep both hands on the steering wheel during the turn and do not change gears during the turn and always check mirrors to make sure the vehicle does not hit any object on the inside of the turn.

# Backing Up



- Make certain the applicant can back the vehicle safely, particularly related to the safety of the pedestrian

# Highway Driving

- ▶ Make sure the applicant is checking traffic, using proper signals, and merging smoothly into the proper lane of traffic.
- ▶ They should maintain proper lane positioning, vehicle spacing, and speed, while continuing to check traffic in all directions.





# City Driving



- The applicant needs to make regular traffic checks and maintain a safe following distance. The vehicle should be centered in the proper lane (right lane) and keeping up with the flow of traffic without exceeding the posted speed limit.

# Night Driving



- ▶ The applicant needs to be aware that night driving is more dangerous.
- ▶ Drivers cannot see hazards as soon as in daylight, so they have less time to react.
- ▶ Drivers caught by surprise are less able to avoid a crash. The problems of night driving may include vision, glare, fatigue, and lack of alertness with poor lighting.

# Defensive Driving

- The applicant needs to discuss equipment failures, bad weather conditions, unskilled drivers on the road, unpredictable pedestrians, and drivers who ignore traffic regulations. As a defensive driver, you should constantly look ahead at the road conditions, or at possible hazards that lie around you in all directions.



# Following Distance

- ▶ The applicant needs to understand the importance for distance between them and the vehicle in front of them. You need this space ahead in case you must suddenly stop. According to accident reports, drivers that get into accidents most often run into the vehicle in front of them. The most frequent cause is following too closely.



Larger Following Distance = Greater Reaction Time

# Space Cushion

- The applicant needs to understand the need for space in front, space behind, spaces to the left and right, space overhead, space for turns and space needed to cross or enter traffic.





# Student Pick-Up and Drop-Off

The applicant must be aware of the appropriate pick-up and drop-off procedures, and to make everyone aware of the potential dangers associated with the loading and unloading of students.

See additional guide for detailed procedures

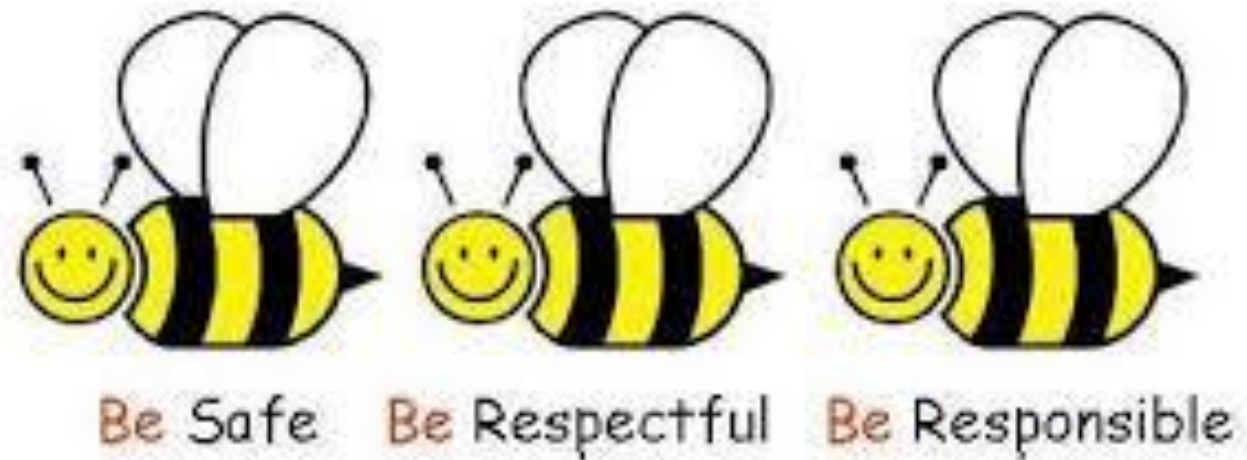


# Cell Phone Use

- ▶ Ch.90 Section 12A prohibits any operator of a train, passenger school bus or any other vehicle used to transport pupils (7D) from using a cell phone. Whoever violates this section shall be punished by a fine of \$500.

# Student Management

- The applicant needs to be aware of the signs of behavioral problems on the 7D vehicle.



# Special Needs Students

- ▶ The applicant needs to be made aware of the many challenges that some students face. Prior to transporting students with disabilities, the driver or applicant should receive appropriate training to follow all state and federal regulations.



# Preventative Measures

- ▶ The 7D applicant needs to have sufficient knowledge of the 7D vehicle and its systems to ensure that they understand and respect their role in vehicle inspection, operation, and maintenance and the impact of those factors upon highway safety and operational efficiency. 7D vehicles are required to have an annual state inspection and the 7D vehicles are required to have a semi-annual inspection in accordance with M.G.L. Ch.90 S7A. These additional inspections will take place in February/March and again in October/November

**SAFETY  
FIRST**



# Bullying



- ▶ Taught by rules under the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, school districts typically train school bus and 7D drivers.