

Date: July 23, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: School Districts, Coordinated Transportation Services Agencies

From: Dave Corso, Assistant Commissioner Division of Finance and Business Services

Information Submission for CDL-Exempt Drivers

The New Jersey Department of Education released guidance today: *Designating Drivers for Student Transportation pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.81 for the 2025-2026 School Year*. Pursuant to P.L.2024, c.81, school districts, including coordinated transportation services agencies, may designate qualified school personnel to provide transportation between home and school in vehicles with a passenger capacity of eight or less, not including the driver. These drivers are not required to possess a commercial driver's license and are exempt from many other requirements of school bus drivers.

A school district electing to designate school personnel to provide transportation between home and school pursuant to this law in the 2025-2026 school year must provide documentation to the executive county superintendent of schools by August 22. Specifically, the school district must provide information regarding each school employee who has been designated to transport students under the law, as well as the vehicles in which students will be transported. The information must be submitted through the New Jersey Department of Education's <u>Homeroom</u> <u>webpage</u> in the *Transportation: CDL-Exempt Driver* application. The web application contains detailed instructions for submitting the required information.

Questions regarding this matter should be addressed to the Student Transportation Unit at <u>student.trans@doe.nj.gov</u>.

c: Members, State Board of Education NJDOE Staff Statewide Parent Advocacy Network Garden State Coalition of Schools NJ LEE Group