



CDL: Step-by-Step Instructions for School Bus and Passenger Endorsement

You must have a current Class A or Class B Commercial Driver's License before getting your School Bus/Passenger Endorsement.

Step One: School Bus and Passenger Theory

Register for School Bus/Passenger Theory course at:

<https://lakeareatech.wufoo.com/forms/eldt-passenger-and-school-bus-theory/>

This self-paced online course meets requirements required by the FMCSA to obtain a CDL with a passenger endorsement or school bus endorsement if you drive a school bus designed to transport 16 or more persons (including the driver). You need to complete the course with an 80% or better to pass. Cost: \$200.

School Bus and Passenger Theory is valid for one year after completion date.

Start watching "CDL Pre-Trip Inspection Demonstration on a School Bus" at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZDh37OE4J8>

Step Two: Commercial Learner's Permit (can be started while completing ELDT Theory)

It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with DMV to take the written exam to obtain a Commercial Learner's Permit. The link to South Dakota Appointment Scheduler is at:

<https://nqa4.nemoqappointment.com/Booking/Booking/Index/7ik87vf56>

Under the New Appointment box select "All Knowledge Testing" and click "Make an appointment".

When you go to DMV you will need to bring the following with you:

- A valid SD Driver's License.
- Two original documents proving your residential/physical address. These documents must show your name and address and be less than one year old. Examples of such documents are a utility bill, a pay stub, a rent receipt, a phone bill, a bank statement, a mortgage document, etc.
https://dps.sd.gov/application/files/6816/8812/8212/Document_Requirements_2023.pdf
- Completed SD Driver's License/I.D. Card Application:
https://dps.sd.gov/application/files/8116/8815/0637/May_2023_Application_8.5x11.pdf

Cost: \$33 plus \$15 for each endorsement

Your Commercial Learner's Permit is valid for one year.

Step Three: Behind the Wheel (BTW) Training

Register for Behind the Wheel Training at:

<https://lakeareatech.wufoo.com/forms/eldt-behind-the-wheel-training/>

Once the driver shows proficiency in all the behind-the-wheel competencies, their information will be uploaded to the Training Provider Registry and they will be able to schedule the driver exam with an Examiner. There is a 48-hour wait period to schedule the Third Party Exam.

Cost: \$350/hour (number of hours is dependent on driver's ability)



You will need to upload the following documents for registration:

- Commercial Learner's Permit
- Proof of ELDT Theory Completion
- DOT Physical
- Clean Drug Screening

You can find Medical Examiners to perform the DOT Physical and Drug Screening on the FMCSA's registry at:

<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/search-medical-examiners>

If there are multiple examiners available in your area, you may want to check around to find the best pricing.

If you have experience operating a school bus you can schedule a driver assessment with one of LATC's CDL Instructors. The **ELDT Fast Track Assessment** is a 2-3 hour session where the driver will conduct a vehicle inspection, perform a brake check, demonstrate backing, and drive a route through Watertown and Interstate 29. If the driver shows proficiency in all these behind-the-wheel competencies, their information will be uploaded to the Training Provider Registry and they will be able to schedule the exam with a Third Party Examiner. There is a 48-hour wait period to schedule the Third Party Exam.

<https://lakeareatech.wufoo.com/forms/eldt-fast-track-assessment/>

Cost: \$750

Step Four: Schedule Third Party Exam

Third Party Examiners are available through LATC. Register at:

<https://lakeareatech.wufoo.com/forms/commercial-drivers-license-test-registration>

Successfully completing the vehicle inspection, backing, brake check, and driving will earn you your CDL. You will need to go to the DMV to pick up your license.

Other examiners can be found at:

<https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing/commercial-drivers-license/third-party-testers>

Cost: \$150