

**LESSON PLAN**  
**2007–08 School Bus Driver Instructor Inservice**

**TITLE OF LESSON: EMERGENCY REVISIONS TO  
CHAPTER 392-144 WAC**

**Objectives of Lesson: At the end of this lesson, the driver instructor will be able to:**

1. Cite the reason for the emergency revision to Chapter 392-144 WAC.
2. Recite the requirements created by the revision to Chapter 392-144 WAC.
3. Know whether someone applying for a bus driving position can bring an abstract to their interview.
4. Know whether drivers can bring an abstract to their in-service training class to meet the requirements of WAC 392-144.

**Equipment for Lesson:**

**H-1** (handout) amended copy of WAC 392-144-100, -120, and -160(4)  
DVD KOMO-TV Problem Solvers News Story  
DVD Player, or Laptop with projector and speakers

**Introduction:**

In December 2006, during one of the western Washington windstorms, a school bus was involved in a minor incident with a fallen tree. Upon investigation, law enforcement officers on the scene discovered that the school bus driver was driving with a suspended driver's license. Further law enforcement could not verify if the driver held a "school bus" endorsement with his CDL.

Shortly thereafter, a KOMO TV "Problem Solver" reporter took this story on as an investigative project calling it "Who's driving your kids?" This lesson plan will provide you with the events surrounding that investigation and the subsequent results.

## Presentation:

Play the DVD of the KOMO news story, if available, at this time.  
If the video is not available, cover the following points.

- Through a public disclosure request, KOMO TV 4 News obtained access to the status of (not details) the driving records of all 10,600 public school bus drivers.
- They discovered that 137 drivers had some questionable discrepancies with their license.
- Further checking revealed that all but six of those discrepancies had valid explanation (i.e. no longer employed, on leave, teachers driving non-school bus vehicles, etc.).
- Of the six drivers that were driving while their license was suspended, several of them claimed to be unaware of their suspended driving status.
- KOMO focused on the driver of the bus involved in the accident and discovered that he had provided a falsified abstract to at least two school districts in obtaining employment as a school bus driver.

As a result of the story, and a look at the process in place, OSPI made an emergency revision to Chapter 392-144 WAC, as follows:

- The new language is bolded:

WAC 392-144-110 Temporary Authorizations-Requirements and Issuing Procedures.

(1)(c)Verification that it has on file **an original**, current **and** complete **school bus** driver's abstract, including departmental actions, of the applicant's employment and non-employment driving record **obtained from** the department of licensing verifying compliance with all provisions of this chapter. The issue date of this abstract must be within sixty calendar days prior to the date the application is being submitted for temporary authorization (new language bold).

WAC 392-144-120 School Bus Driver Authorization-Requirements and Issuing Procedures.

(1)(c)Verification that it has on file **an original**, current **and** complete **school bus** driver's abstract, including departmental actions, of the applicant's employment and non-employment driving record **obtained from** the department of licensing verifying compliance with all provisions of this chapter. The issue date of this abstract must be within sixty calendar days prior to the date the application is being submitted for

temporary authorization. If no request for a temporary school bus driver's authorization was submitted, the issue date must be within sixty calendar days prior to the date of application of the school bus driver authorization (new language bold).

WAC 392-144-160(4) School District—Verification of Driver's Continuing Compliance

(4) This report shall verify that **a current and original school bus driver's abstract has been obtained from the department of licensing on each authorized school bus driver and the driving record is in compliance with WAC 392-144-103** (new language bold).

### **Summary:**

Chapter 392-144 WAC has been revised to require that districts obtain an original school bus driver's abstract directly from Department of Licensing (DOL) prior to obtaining a temporary authorization or permanent authorization (if a temporary was not issued). In addition, when districts annually verify that their drivers are in compliance with WAC 392-144, the school bus driver's abstract must be obtained directly from DOL. You can no longer accept an abstract provided by the driver.

Please note—this does not prevent you from requiring potential applicants for driver positions to provide you a copy of their abstract as part of application materials for screening purposes, but you are required to obtain an abstract directly from DOL prior to authorization.

### **Evaluation:**

1. Cite the reason for the emergency revision to Chapter 392-144 WAC.
2. Recite the requirements created by the revision to Chapter 392-144 WAC.
3. Can you ask someone applying for a bus driving position to bring an abstract to their interview?
4. Can you ask your drivers to bring an abstract to the inservice training class in August for your review and to be placed in their files, to meet the requirement of WAC 392-144?