

Bus Drivers

SOC: 53-3051 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$48,370

Median Salary

546,100

Employment

+1.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 35.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.4/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.6/10	Investigative	4.4/10
Artistic	3.4/10	Social	5.8/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	Conventional	7.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Customer-service skills, Dependability, Hand-eye coordination, Hearing ability, Patience, Physical health, Visual ability

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Bus Drivers are transportation professionals who safely operate **buses to transport passengers along fixed routes or chartered trips**. They play a vital role in public transit systems, school transportation, and private travel by ensuring passengers reach their destinations safely, on time, and comfortably. Their work supports mobility, access to education and employment, and community connectivity.

This career is well suited for individuals who value responsibility, enjoy working with the public, and prefer structured, route-based work.

What Do Bus Drivers Do?

Bus drivers are responsible for the safe and efficient transport of passengers.

Common responsibilities include:

- Operating buses along assigned routes or schedules
- Picking up and dropping off passengers at designated stops
- Following traffic laws and transportation regulations
- Assisting passengers with boarding, seating, or accessibility needs
- Monitoring passenger safety and maintaining order on the bus
- Collecting fares or verifying passes, depending on the system
- Inspecting vehicles before and after trips and reporting issues

Types of Bus Driving Jobs

Bus drivers may work in different transportation settings:

- Transit Bus Drivers: Operate city or regional public transportation routes.
- School Bus Drivers: Transport students to and from schools and activities.
- Charter Bus Drivers: Drive for tours, events, or private group travel.
- Intercity Bus Drivers: Operate long-distance routes between cities.
- Shuttle and Airport Bus Drivers: Transport passengers within campuses or terminals.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Bus drivers combine safe driving skills with customer service awareness.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Licensing Pathway

Becoming a bus driver requires specialized licensing and training:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Typical minimum requirement
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL): Required with passenger endorsement
- Employer-Provided Training: Route knowledge, safety procedures, and vehicle operation
- Background and Driving Record Checks: Required by employers
- Ongoing Safety Training: Periodic refresher courses

Where Do Bus Drivers Work?

Bus drivers are employed across public and private transportation systems:

- Public Transit Authorities
- School Districts and Education Systems
- Private Bus and Charter Companies

- Tourism and Travel Organizations
- Airports, Universities, and Corporate Campuses

Work schedules may include early mornings, evenings, weekends, or split shifts.

How Much Do Bus Drivers Earn?

Earnings vary by employer, route type, and experience:

- Entry-Level Bus Drivers: Typically earn hourly wages during initial service
- Experienced or Specialized Drivers: Often earn higher pay
- Unionized Transit Drivers: May receive stronger benefits and wage scales

Compensation frequently includes benefits, overtime, and paid training.

Is This Career Difficult?

Bus driving is demanding due to long hours, traffic conditions, and responsibility for passenger safety. Drivers must remain alert, calm, and courteous while navigating busy roads and interacting with the public. The challenge lies in maintaining consistent safety and service under varying conditions.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Bus Driver?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy driving and structured routines
- Are safety-conscious and dependable
- Like working with the public
- Can stay calm in traffic or stressful situations
- Want a stable transportation career with steady demand

How to Prepare Early

- Maintain a clean driving record
- Learn traffic laws and safe driving practices
- Develop patience and customer service skills
- Practice situational awareness and focus
- Research CDL requirements and local transit opportunities

Bus drivers keep communities moving by providing safe, reliable transportation—connecting people to schools, jobs, services, and each other through professionalism, responsibility, and steady control behind the wheel.