



#146-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #146-22**

DATE: July 1, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: Annual School Bus Driver Critical Shortage Survey

Code of Virginia § 22.1-23 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to annually survey all local school divisions to identify critical shortages of school bus drivers by geographic area and local school division. This data will be used to identify school divisions or geographic areas with critical shortages of bus drivers, thus permitting any school bus driver hired by a local school board in any geographic area or school division in which a critical shortage of school bus drivers has been identified to elect to continue to receive a service retirement allowance during such employment if the driver meets certain other conditions. Please note that the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) has also issued additional guidelines regarding the school bus driver critical shortage issue. The criteria to determine if a school division and/or a Superintendent's Region has a critical school bus driver shortage is:

- The school division received three or fewer qualified applicants when recruiting for vacant school bus driver positions during the previous year.
- A qualified bus driver applicant is determined by compliance with *Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation* sections, 8VAC20-70-280. *Requirements for School Bus Drivers Both for Employment and Continued Employment.* and 8VAC20-70-350. *Training.*

The 2022-2023 school bus driver position critical shortage will be identified by your school division's 2021-2022 school year total recruitment of school bus drivers and the total number of qualified applicants. The bus driver critical shortage survey form will be emailed to your school division's transportation director and the results will be posted on the Virginia Department of Education's website and provided to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). The survey submission requires the signatures of the division transportation and human resources directors, as well as the division superintendent.

For more information

If you have questions concerning the school bus driver critical shortage survey, please contact Vijay Ramnarain, Director, Office of Support Services, at (804) 225-2774 or Vijay.Ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov or Kerry Miller, Associate Director, Pupil Transportation Services, at (804) 225-2772 or Kerry.Miller@doe.virginia.gov.

JB/KM/aam