VyRal

A LeakReceipts Field Guide

LeakReceipts for Bus Drivers

The Field Guide: where the money leaks, how to prove it, and how to close it

For: Transit/Intercity & School Bus Drivers

by VyRal Dynasty

LeakReceipts for Bus Drivers The Field Guide: where the money leaks, how to prove it, and how to close it

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How every number in this book is labeled.

- **VERIFIED** means the figure comes from a named, dated source, and the source is printed next to it.
- **CALCULATED** means it is arithmetic on verified numbers or on your own numbers, and the math is shown.
- **ESTIMATE** means a reasoned range, and it is always called one.
- **STRUCTURAL** marks a standing rule of the trade (a law, a contract term, how the paperwork works), not a market figure.
- **STILL BEING MEASURED** means VyRal has not verified a figure yet, so no number is printed.

If a number is not labeled, it is a blank for you to fill from your own paper.

What this book is not. This is education, not legal, tax, accounting or financial advice. Where a fix says a professional decides, a professional decides. Nothing here says that any company, customer or person did anything wrong. The fixes show you how to check your own paper and ask in writing.

About how this book was made. This book was assembled with AI from VyRal's sourced research on this trade and checked against those sources. AI can make mistakes. Before you act on a figure, check it against the source printed beside it. Rules and rates change, and every figure carries its date for that reason.

Before you share any document with anyone, Vera included, black out account numbers, Social Security numbers and anything else you would not hand a stranger.

Contents

1. The short answer for your trade
2. What people in your trade say hurts
3. Get your paper together
4. Leak 1: School Bus Driver Pay Benchmark
5. Leak 2: Transit/Intercity Bus Driver Pay Benchmark
6. Leak 3: Split runs — the penalty is for SPREAD, and most splits never reach it
7. Leak 4: Split-Shift Unpaid Gap — Real Earnings Below Annualized Figure
8. Leak 5: CDL Training & Sign-On Incentives Amid Driver Shortage
9. More leaks to check
10. Grow it: the next rung
11. The household side: TrueNET
12. Your 30-day leak plan
13. Take it into LeakReceipts
14. Sources
15. Your leak log

The short answer for your trade

If you drive a school bus or transit route, the number that matters most usually isn't the annualized federal median — it's what you're actually paid for the real, split hours your schedule ties up each day.

Your leak map

Every leak this book covers, biggest first. The size grade is VyRal's research grade for how much money a leak tends to move in this trade. It is a grade, not a dollar figure. Your own paper sets the dollars.

#	Leak	Size grade	Evidence	Fixes
1	School Bus Driver Pay Benchmark	Significant	VERIFIED	1
2	Transit/Intercity Bus Driver Pay Benchmark	Significant	VERIFIED	1
3	Split runs — the penalty is for SPREAD, and most splits never reach it	Moderate	VERIFIED	1
4	Split-Shift Unpaid Gap — Real Earnings Below Annualized Figure	Major	STILL BEING MEASURED	1
5	CDL Training & Sign-On Incentives Amid Driver Shortage	Significant	STILL BEING MEASURED	1

Then there are 3 more leaks to check, each with its own fixes, in the chapter called More leaks to check.

What people in your trade say hurts

Before we built a single fix, we went and read what people in this trade say out loud: forums, trade press, regulators' complaint files and court records. These are the pains that kept coming up, the ones with the most sources first. If one of them is yours, you're not imagining it.

My bus contract pays the same while diesel eats the route, and runs get cut

Many districts hire small bus contractors on fixed contracts, and pay does not rise with fuel. Some districts add a small stipend or settle up at year end, which leaves the contractor short of cash now. Districts are also cutting and combining routes.

Found in 6 public sources; newest dated 2026-10-26. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

Inspections, waiting and training done off the clock

Pre-trip and post-trip checks, warming the bus, paperwork, waiting on students and required training often fall outside paid time. Drivers keep suing big bus contractors over it, and courts have rejected some settlements.

Found in 4 public sources; newest dated 2026-02-04. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

Split shift eats my whole day but pays me for part of it

I drive early morning and mid-afternoon with hours unpaid in between. The posted annual pay assumes full-time hours my schedule never reaches, and the midday gap is too short for a second job.

Found in 4 public sources; newest dated 2026-09-07. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

No pay all summer, and most states won't let me draw unemployment

When school lets out my paycheck stops. In most states a bus driver who is expected back in the fall can't collect unemployment, even though the work isn't there. Only a few states changed that.

Found in 3 public sources; newest dated 2025-04-29. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

Getting assaulted on the job

Attacks on transit workers have risen sharply, and bus drivers take most of them. An assault means lost shifts, medical bills and a workers' comp fight on top of the injury.

Found in 2 public sources; newest dated 2026-05-12. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

Get your paper together

Every fix in this book starts with paper, not memory. Memory rounds in the other side's favor. Paper doesn't.

Pull the last 90 days. Put it all in one folder, paper or phone, and label each piece with its date. Black out account numbers and Social Security numbers before you share anything with anyone.

The paper that proves each leak:

- Your contracts, invoices, statements, pay records and the messages around them.

My folder checklist

Last 90 days of statements or pay records _____

Every contract or agreement I work under _____

Every invoice, ticket or settlement for the same 90 days _____

The messages that changed a price, a scope or a date _____

Leak 1: School Bus Driver Pay Benchmark

Size grade: Significant · Evidence: VERIFIED

What it is. BLS median annual wage for school bus drivers is $47,040 as of May 2024, calculated on a full-time-equivalent basis.

Why it leaks. This figure assumes a continuous full-time schedule, which almost no school bus driver actually works — see the split-shift row for why real W-2 earnings often land below this number.

The number to hold it against. $47,920 a year — median pay for school bus drivers nationwide, May 2025; lowest 10% under $29,240, highest 10% over $65,730. Much school bus work is part-year or part-day. Source: BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bus Drivers (SOC 53-3051), May 2025 data.

VERIFIED · Primary — government or regulator

> **Ask yourself:** How does your actual annual pay compare to the $47,920 full-time-equivalent federal median?

1. School bus pay compared to a full-time median the schedule never reaches

Fix approved · leak evidence: Verified

Fix 1 — Do it yourself (free).

1. Add up what you were paid last year from your stubs or W-2.
2. Add up the hours you were paid for and the weeks you worked.
3. Divide pay by paid hours. That's your hourly (CALCULATED from your own record). Compare hourly to hourly, not your year to a full-time year.
4. For reference, the Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2025 median for school bus drivers is $47,920 a year (VERIFIED, BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bus Drivers, SOC 53-3051). It assumes full-time hours most school bus drivers don't work.
5. If you want more paid hours, ask about field trips, activity runs, summer work or extra routes.

Fix 2 — The words to send, under your own name. Fill in the brackets, keep a copy, and send it from your own email or by mail. Nobody sends it for you.

Email to your transportation office:

Hi [NAME],

I'd like to pick up more paid hours. Could you add me to the list for [field trips / activity runs / summer routes / extra board], and tell me how those are assigned and paid?

I'm available [Days and times].

Thank you,
[YOUR NAME] | Route [#] | [PHONE]

Fix 3 — Done for you. **LeakReceipts · Pay Check**

WE DO: read your stubs and work out your real hourly and paid hours per week from your own record, and show where extra paid runs would add up. YOU DO: ask for the extra work and decide what you take.

Keep it closed. Compare hourly to hourly. Ask for extra-run sign-ups at the start of each school year.

What this fix can't decide for you. Recommendation from his own record only.

My receipt for this leak			
Owed by my paper	Paid or billed	Gap (CALCULATED: owed – paid)	Fix 2 sent · answer

FREE FIRST CHAPTER

That's Leak 1 of 5.

The full Field Guide for Bus Drivers walks through every leak on the map you just read: why it happens, the paper that proves it, and three fixes for each one — one you do yourself for free, the words to send under your own name, and what LeakReceipts can do for you while the decision stays yours.

Get the full guide:
leakreceipts.com/ebooks/bus-drivers

Run it on your own numbers:
leakreceipts.com

WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT — 2 Corinthians 5:7