



Things to Consider

when choosing a truck driving school

So you've made the decision to begin a new trucking career. That's great! You're on your way to a better career and way of life for you and your family. But deciding to go to trucking school is just the beginning of your journey. Where do you go from there? How do you even begin to pick a truck driving school out of the thousands of them in the nation? Well, we're here to help! Keep reading for tips on what to look for when choosing a truck driving school.

A Trucking Career Guide By



1. QUALITY OF TRAINING



Certified Program

Look for a certified program so you can rest assured that you're getting reliable CDL training from a legitimate, accredited truck driving school.



Classroom Experience

Trucking school is all about building on your knowledge each day and this must begin in the classroom. Make sure the school you choose provides classroom time first to ensure you're fully prepared for the behind the wheel portion of training.



Student to Truck Ratio

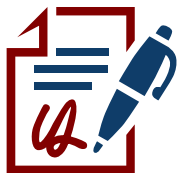
Good trucking schools have small student-to-truck ratios in order to allow you to get the hands on experience you need.

2. JOB OPPORTUNITY



This is pretty straight forward - does the school assist you in finding a job as a professional truck driver after you graduate? The best trucking schools take the time to educate you on the truck driving opportunities available once you complete CDL training.

3. COST OF TUITION



Tuition Assistance & Sponsorships

Research company-paid CDL training options and tuition assistance programs. Many of these programs and opportunities make it easier for you to afford trucking school because you're not required to pay the full tuition entirely out of pocket. Just make sure you're comfortable with the cost of tuition and any sponsorship agreements or contracts prior to making a decision.



Upfront Costs

Most people begin a new trucking job because they need money. This means that a \$6,000 upfront tuition isn't exactly affordable OR practical for the majority of people. Trucking school can be expensive, so be sure to choose one that offers a good, accredited program for an affordable fee.

4. LENGTH OF SCHOOL



Too Short...

Schools that promise CDLs in a week or so are generally too short and often labeled as “CDL Mills.” They don’t teach you all you need to know in such a short amount of time. Often times, they’re only concerned with getting your money, not providing you with the best truck driving training.



Too Long...

Programs that are too long (5-10 weeks) usually aren’t good either. These programs delay starting your new career. Remember that you won’t be getting paid during truck driver training, so you’ll not have a steady source of income for a good two months. Many times this can be a serious inconvenience to those individuals needing to start a new career as soon as possible.



Just Right!

The most reputable trucking schools usually last around 3 to 4 weeks. These programs don’t consume a large chunk of your time, but still teach you everything you need to know about your new trucking career.

5. SCHOOL LOCATION



The right trucking school isn’t always going to be close to where you live. Actually, the cheapest, closest, and most convenient school probably isn’t going to be the best fit for your needs. Don’t allow yourself to be limited by location. If you want to be a truck driver, it’s likely that you enjoy driving, so just remember that you may have to make a drive to attend the school best suited for your needs.

There are a lot of factors you need to consider when choosing a driving school. You need to understand your options and the commitments you’ll need to make in order to be successful. Make sure you read the fine print when accepting an offer. Most trucking jobs are accompanied by a serious commitment on your part, so make sure this is a lifestyle change you’re willing to make. It’s not going to be easy, but if you truly want it and accept all that comes with it, it can be an incredibly rewarding career.

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