

6A-3.0171 Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation.

Each school district shall exercise specific powers and responsibilities, as follows:

(1) Responsibilities of Superintendent. It shall be the duty of the superintendent, acting as executive officer for the school board to exercise functions and to perform duties listed below:

(a) through (d) No change.

(e) To prepare and recommend to the school board plans for the purchase, lease, rental or contracting of contract for safe school buses and alternate vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school activities and to ensure that vehicles purchased, leased, rented or contracted for student transportation meet the allowable usage indicated in the following chart:-

| <u>Vehicle Type</u> | <u>Vehicle Certification Label</u> | <u>Federal or State Vehicle Definition</u> | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Manufactured Seating Capacity Including the Driver</u> | <u>Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)</u> | <u>Allowable Usage</u> | <u>Driver Requirements</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| <u>School Bus</u> | School Bus | s. 1006.25, F.S. 49 CFR 571.3(c) "School bus" | School Bus (Yellow in Color) | 11 to 15 seating positions, including the driver | < 26,001 Lbs. GVWR | Home to School and School to Home Transportation School Center to School Center School-Sponsored | Class "E" License, NOTE: See rule 6A-3.0141, F.A.C., for all requirements. |
| | | | | 16 or more seating positions, including the driver | ≥ 26,001 Lbs. GVWR | Field, Activity and Sporting Events and Trips | Class "B" CDL with Passenger Endorsement (P) and School Bus Endorsement (S), Valid Medical |

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| | | | | | | | <u>Examiner Certificate (MCSA-5876), Valid Dexterity Exam (ESE-480), Current Weekly Driver History Record Check via MOTRS NOTE: See rule 6A-3.0141, F.A.C., for all requirements.</u> |
| MFSAB | <u>Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB)</u> | <u>49 CFR 571.3(c) "Multifunction school activity bus"</u> | <u>MFSAB (TYPE A) Cannot Be Yellow</u> | <u>11 to 15 seating positions, including the driver</u> | <u>< 26,001 Lbs. GVWR</u> | <u>School Center to School Center, School Sponsored Field, Activity and Sporting Events and Trips.</u> | <u>Class "E" License, NOTE: See rule 6A-3.0141, F.A.C., for all requirements.</u> |
| | | | <u>MFSAB (TYPE C and D) Cannot Be Yellow</u> | <u>16 or more seating positions, including the driver</u> | <u>≥ 26,001 Lbs. GVWR</u> | | <u>Class "B" CDL with Passenger Endorsement (P) and School Bus Endorsement (S), Valid Medical Examiner Certificate (MCSA-5876), Valid Dexterity Exam (ESE-480), Current Weekly Driver History</u> |

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| | | | | | | | Record Check via MOTRS NOTE: See rule 6A-3.0141, F.A.C., for all requirements. |
| <u>MPV</u> | <u>Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle (MPV)</u> | 49 CFR 571.3(c) “Multipurpose passenger vehicle” | <u>MPV, SUV, Minivan</u> | 10 or fewer seating positions, including the driver | Varies | <u>Home to School and School to Home Transportation School Center to School Center School Sponsored Field, Activity and Sporting Events and Trips.</u> | Minimum of a Class "E" Driver's License NOTE: See rule 6A-3.0141, F.A.C., for all requirements. |
| <u>Passenger Car</u> | <u>Passenger Car</u> | 49 CFR 571.3(c) “Passenger car” | <u>Passenger Car</u> | | | | |
| <u>Truck</u> | <u>Truck</u> | 49 CFR 571.3(c) “Truck” | <u>Truck</u> | | | | |
| <u>Common Carrier</u> | <u>Bus</u> | 49 CFR 571.3(b) “Bus” | <u>Common Carrier</u> | 11 or more seating positions, including the driver | Varies | <u>The exception for use is described in s. 1006.22(5), F.S. Common Carriers may</u> | <u>Interstate Motor Coach Companies operate under FMCSA regulations</u> |

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | be used to transport students to and from in-season and postseason athletic contests and to and from a school function or event. | |
| <u>Bus</u> | <u>Bus (not a school bus)</u> | <u>49 CFR 571.3(b) "Bus"</u> | <u>Cargo Van/ Shuttle Bus/ 11-15 Passenger Van</u> | <u>11 or more seating positions, including the driver</u> | <u>Varies</u> | <u>VEHICLE NOT ALLOWED</u> | <u>VEHICLE NOT ALLOWED</u> |
| <u>Motorcycle</u> | <u>Motorcycle</u> | <u>49 CFR 571.3(c) "Motorcycle"</u> | <u>Motorcycle</u> | <u>1 driver and 1 passenger maximum</u> | <u>Varies</u> | <u>VEHICLE NOT ALLOWED</u> | <u>VEHICLE NOT ALLOWED</u> |

(f) No change.

(g) To propose garages at which buses shall be inspected, when arrangements for this service have not been made to use school board employed mechanics, and to see that inspections are systematically made at least once every one hundred and one (101) calendar days ~~thirty (30) school days, while school is in session~~, at garages approved by the board.

(h) No change.

(2) The school district shall exercise additional specific powers and responsibilities, as follows:

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) To ensure ~~assure~~ that all transportation rules and statements of policy are in harmony with rules of the State Board of Education, and are fully observed.

(d) To ensure ~~assure~~ that no state funds for transportation are used for transportation of students to schools

which cannot qualify for recognition by the Department under the provisions of State Board of Education rules.

(e) To adopt, after considering recommendations of the superintendent, a school board policy prohibiting the use of a cellular telephone by any ~~vehicle school bus~~ operator while actively transporting students ~~driving the bus~~.

(f) To adopt, after considering recommendations of the superintendent, a school board policy that prohibits unnecessary idling of school buses while they are in the vicinity of students.

(g) To adopt, after considering recommendations of the superintendent, statements of policy in harmony with law and with rules of the State Board of Education necessary for maintaining the requirements of adequate transportation. Such policies shall include at least the following responsibilities of the director or supervisor of transportation, the school principal or other designated staff and the bus operator for uniform school bus operating procedures:

1. No change.

2. Responsibilities of the school principal or other designated school staff:

a. To assume responsibility under the direction of the superintendent for all student disciplinary cases that ~~which~~ arise in connection with transportation.

b. through f. No change.

3. Responsibilities of the school bus operator:

a. through f. No change.

g. To attend and participate in conferences and training classes for school bus operators and to be prepared at any time to ~~pass~~ successfully pass an a-reasonable examination concerning traffic laws, state and local transportation rules and driving skills.

h. through o. No change.

p. To prepare immediately after every accident involving the bus, or a school bus passenger, an accident report to be filed with the director or supervisor of transportation.

q. To ascertain and ensure that all persons are off the bus before filling the fuel tank.

r. No change.

s. To inspect the bus at least daily prior to the beginning of the first daily trip or more often as required by the school district and to report any defect affecting safety or economy of operation immediately and in writing to authorized service personnel. The inspection shall include all items identified in the procedures related to the

mandatory daily pre-trip inspection in the Basic School Bus Operator Curriculum.

t. through u. No change.

v. To wear a seat belt and instruct all passengers to wear a seat belt at all times when the bus is in operation, in accordance with sSection 1006.25(4), F.S.

w. To use roof-mounted white flashing strobe lights, at a minimum, whenever headlights are required to be used due to reduced visibility conditions pursuant to ~~s~~Section 316.217(1)(b), F.S., except that insufficient light due only to the time of day or night shall not require use of the strobe light.

x. To report immediately to the director or supervisor of transportation, school principal or other designated officials:

(I) No change.

(II) Complaints requiring the attention of school authorities;

(III) No change.

(IV) Causes for failure to maintain the school bus route time schedule; and,

(V) Overloaded conditions on the bus which exceed the rated seating capacity of the bus.

y. through z. No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Transported students.

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) To suspend for a period not to exceed ten (10) days, upon recommendation of the superintendent, any student who willfully and persistently violates school board policies, in accordance with ~~s~~Section 1003.01(5)(a), F.S.

(5) Purchases, lease and use of school buses.

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) To ensure ~~assure~~ that contracts entered into by school boards for operation of school buses and alternate vehicles are in accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

(d) To adopt policies governing the use of publicly owned and contracted school buses and alternate vehicles for transportation of students to school and school activities, and to ascertain and ensure that buses, ~~and~~ bus bodies and alternate vehicles are used only after policies have been adopted and upon written instructions signed by the

superintendent or designee. Such district policies shall include the provision that any equipment carried in a school bus or alternate vehicle which could shift on impact or sudden stop shall be securely fastened and shall not block any aisle or exit at any time.

(6) Routes and schedules.

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) To ~~ensure assure~~ that county and city officials are advised of hazards on bus routes and hazards involving students walking to and from school.

(7) School bus operating principles. To ~~ensure assure~~ that all buses are operated in accordance with municipal, county and state traffic requirements and that every precaution is taken to ~~ensure assure~~ the safety of students.

(8) Inspection and maintenance of school buses.

(a) To provide, after considering recommendations of the superintendent, adequate storage, maintenance and inspection procedures for all buses owned by the school board, and to ~~ensure assure~~ that all contract buses and charter school buses in use in the district are properly inspected and maintained in accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

(b) Inspections of school buses ~~The inspection~~ shall be conducted at an interval not to exceed 101 calendar days between inspections by technicians certified as school bus safety inspectors in accordance with procedures including and include all items described listed in the State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, December 2025 ~~and include~~ 2020 Edition (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-18874> 12218) and documented on the respective Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Form 2025-BIF or 2025 EBIF or FDOE-approved electronic equivalent as incorporated in the State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual. (2020- ~~IF)(<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12215>), effective October 2020. The manual and form 2020 IF are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule. These documents may be obtained from the department's website at: <http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7585/urlt/0085485-floridaschoolbussafetyinspectionmanual-1.pdf>, and may also be obtained from the department's School Transportation Management Section, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at a cost not to exceed actual production and distribution cost.~~

(c) Alternate vehicles used to transport students shall have signage or lettering on the vehicle's exterior identifying the vehicle as authorized for student transportation. Inspection of buses shall be scheduled and

~~performed at a maximum interval of thirty (30) school days while school is in session. Any bus that is removed from service or deadlined so as to disrupt the safety inspection schedule shall be inspected prior to being returned to service. All deficiencies discovered during the safety inspection shall be noted on the inspection form(2020-IF). Follow up repairs of all safety related items shall be made before the bus is returned to service and shall be documented on an associated repair order.~~

(d) Any bus that is removed from service or deadlined to disrupt the safety inspection schedule shall be inspected before being returned to service. All safety-related deficiencies discovered during the school bus inspection must be repaired and documented on the respective inspection form, along with an associated repair order, before the bus is returned to service. No person shall knowingly render inoperative or reduce compliance of any school bus required to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable at the time of manufacture. School bus inspections shall be conducted by technicians certified as school bus safety inspectors in accordance with the State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, 2020 Edition. The State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspector Application (Form 2020-SI) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12216>), effective October 2020, and the District Online Test Administrator Application (Form 2025-TA) (Form 2020-TA) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12217>), effective October 2020, are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of this rule. These documents may be obtained from the Department's website at: <http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7585/urlt/0085485-floridaschoolbussafetyinspectionmanual-1.pdf>, and may also be obtained from the department's School Transportation Management Section, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at a cost not to exceed actual production and distribution cost. The requirement that inspections be performed by a certified Florida School Bus Safety Inspector may be waived for a period not to exceed six (6) months when an emergency condition exists, upon written notification to the Commissioner of Education by the district superintendent.

(e) The State of Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual, which includes the School Bus Safety Inspector Application form 2025-SI, District Online Test Administrator Application form 2025-TA, Bus Inspection form 2025-BIF, and Electric Bus Inspection Form 2025-EBIF are made effective December 2025 and hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule. These documents may be obtained from the department's website at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/healthy-schools/transportation/>. They may also be obtained from the department's School Transportation Management Section, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at a cost that does

~~not exceed actual production and distribution costs. No person shall knowingly render inoperative or reduce compliance of any school bus equipment required to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable at the time of manufacture.~~

(f) The requirement that inspections be performed by a certified Florida School Bus Safety Inspector may be waived for a period not to exceed six (6) months when an emergency condition exists, upon written notification to the Commissioner of Education by the district superintendent.

(9) Transportation records, reports and accounting.

(a) No change.

(b) To ~~ensure~~ assure that all records and reports are properly completed and ~~are~~ furnished on the dates due to those designated to receive them.

(c) through (f) No change.

(g) To report bus inventories using the department's Online Bus Inventory Application, which may be accessed at <https://web01.fldoe.org/BusOnlineInventory/Admin/AdminUserMaintenance.aspx> <http://app4.fldoe.org/BusOnlineInventory/Login.aspx>. ~~For viewing purposes only, hard copies of the reporting requirements for the Online Bus Inventory Application may be obtained by contacting the Director of School Transportation Management 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.~~

(10) Inter-agency relationships. To cooperate with municipal, county, state, and federal agencies to promote the safety of the transportation service through the correction of remediable road hazards.

Rulemaking Authority 316.615, 1001.02(1), 1002.33(28), 1003.31, 1006.21, 1006.22, 1006.25(4), 1012.45 FS. Law Implemented 316.615, 1002.33(20)(c), 1003.31, 1006.22, 1006.25(4), 1012.45 FS. History—New 9-4-64, Amended 3-25-66, 1-17-72, 7-20-74, Repromulgated 12-5-74, Amended 11-24-76, 10-1-81, Formerly 6A-3.17, Amended 9-30-87, 6-26-89, 11-15-94, 8-28-95, 4-18-96, Formerly 6-3.017, Amended 6-11-00, Formerly 6-3.017, Amended 4-21-03, 11-26-08, 3-23-16, 3-22-17, 10-27-20, 11-23-21.