

KSDE School Bus Safety Unit gets questions on a fairly regular basis. While we are able to get timely responses to most who ask, there are some recurring questions that will be addressed in this section. Many of the answers are from the Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.s) or Kansas Statutes Annotated (K.S.A.s), but there are some that will be found in the Kansas Commercial Drivers' License Handbook, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulations, and other sources. We will do our best to provide you with references which can be found on the School Bus Safety Unit web site. We hope that this will provide a quick, ready reference from some of your common questions.

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GENERAL OPERATIONS

1. It is legal to back a school or activity bus?

Yes. Due to the number of blind spots on a school bus, the practice of backing is normally discouraged. Some districts have their own districts policies prohibiting backing the school bus.

KSA 8-1574

2. Is it legal for a school bus to make a right turn on red?

Yes, unless there is a sign prohibiting it. Some school districts prohibit this practice by addressing it in school district policy.

KSA 8-1508

3. Can I wear ear buds and listen to music while I drive a bus?

At present there is not any law or regulation which prohibits this but this practice is strongly discouraged for safety reasons and should be addressed by school policy.

4. Can a driver of a school passenger vehicle or activity/school bus text while driving?

NO. Kansas law prohibits all drivers from texting and driving.

KSA 8-15,111

5. Are school buses required to be operated with a dome light(s) on while transporting students at night?

No. This would need to be addressed by school district policy.

6. Are activity and school buses required to stop at railroad crossings even when not transporting students?

Yes. Activity and School Buses are away required to stop whether transporting students or not.

KSA 8-1553, KAR 36-26-1

7. Is a school bus driver required to open the entry door of a school bus prior to crossing railroad tracks?

No. There is no legal requirement to do so. However, CDL examiners normally require it when conducting the CDL skills test. Schools may address this in school district policy. Security of the students and the driver should be a concern when the practice of opening the door is done. Opening the bus drivers window to listen at a railroad crossing should be done when not opening the door.

8. Do school passenger vehicles transporting students have to stop prior to crossing railroad tracks?

No. There is no legal requirement for school passenger vehicles to do so. The law only applies to buses.

KSA 8-1553, KAR 36-26-1

9. When is the strobe light on the school bus required to be operated?

The strobe light should be operated at any time the headlights are required.

KSA 8-1703

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10. Is talking on a cell phone illegal while driving an Activity/School Bus or School Passenger Vehicle?

No. Provided the Activity/School Bus does not have a DOT number. It is not uncommon for this to be addressed in School District Policy.

49 CFR 390.3

11. Are school buses required to stop at commercial vehicle weigh stations?

Per the Kansas Highway Patrol, a school bus is not required to stop at a weigh station unless it is required to have a "DOT" number on it. These buses would be those belonging to contractor operations such as Durham, First Student, etc. Buses owned and operated by a school district or private school would be exempt from this requirement.

Keep in mind this is ONLY for Kansas. Even though school buses are somewhat exempt Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, most states do not exempt buses on weight restrictions. If you are traveling to or through another state for an activity or event, contact that state's school transportation officials for further information.

12. Can a school bus or school passenger vehicle be parked in designated handicapped parking?

Yes, provided the bus or school passenger vehicle is transporting a handicapped student and the vehicle is marked with at least one International Symbol of Accessibility below the window line. Such emblems shall be white on blue or black background, shall not exceed 12 inches square in size and shall be of a high-intensity retro reflective material

13. Is there a law on what age a student can be left off the bus with no parents at home?

NO. This is left up to school district policy

14. What is the difference between rated capacity vs usable capacity on a school bus.

Rated capacity is determined by the manufacturer based on FMVSS 222. A 39 inch seat is rated for 3 students. Usable capacity is the number of students you can safely place entirely on a seat based on their size. Compartmentalization will only work if the student is completely on the seat facing forward.

15. Is there a time limit on how long a student can ride the school bus to school or back home?

NO. A general guideline is no more than an hour but this is not always possible.

16. Is there a time limit on how long a special needs student can ride the school bus?

This is school policy decision. For students with special needs, the length of time for the bus ride should be addressed in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The Transportation Director should be consulted during this part of the process.

17. Can students eat or drink on the bus?

This is left up to school district policy.

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18. Who has to attend the mandated safety meetings?

Anyone and everyone who drives an activity bus or school bus, plus anyone who is primarily hired to provide transportation in a school passenger vehicle.

19. Can sports equipment, band instruments, coolers, etc., be transported on the bus with students?

Yes provided the district does not have a policy prohibiting it. If allowed, the openings for the service door, emergency exits, and aisles shall be kept clear. The item has to fit in an area (in or under a bus seat or in under-carriage storage) to allow all passengers a safe ride. If that's not possible, a separate vehicle for equipment would be the best option.

KAR 91-38-7

20. How long are school districts required to keep transportation records?

See our quick reference document for file retention on our website.

21. Do we have to transport a student who is registered sex offender on the school bus?

Contact the School Bus Safety Unit for guidance.

22. Does a school district have to test school bus drivers more than once for tuberculosis?

No. Tuberculosis testing is normally a onetime test unless there would be an event which would require an additional test.

KSA 72-6266

23. During occasional tuberculin shortages some school bus drivers and other school employees were tested for tuberculosis using a doctor questionnaire. Is this questionnaire valid?

Yes. This is an accepted practice during shortages and meets the requirement of tuberculosis testing for a time period specifically designated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. This does not preclude the school district from retesting after the shortage of tuberculin is resolved.

24. When is a school required to transport a student according to the 2.5-mile rule?

Kansas law sets out the three situations where students must be transported.

1. School is located outside the corporate limits of a city and it's 2.5 miles or more from the residence of the student.

2. School is located inside the corporate limits of a city and the residence is outside the corporate limits and it's 2.5 miles or more to the school.

3. Residence is located in one city, school is in another city and it's 2.5 miles or more from residence.

Every school district receives funding based on a formula for each student over 2.5 miles. The distance is measured by KSDE (Kansas State Department of Education) Auditors from the front door of residence to front door of school using the most direct route. There is no rounding when measuring.

K.S.A. 72-6487

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Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

25. Are activity/school bus drivers regulated on how many hours they can drive?

YES. No more than 10 hours in a 15 hour period.

See the School/Activity Bus and School Passenger Vehicle Driving Hour Guidance Document on our website for more information.

KAR 91-38-7

26. When does transportation have to be included in an IEP?

Transportation must be included in an IEP when the IEP team determines it is needed in order for the child to benefit from his/her education. So, if a child needs specialized transportation unavailable to the parents, such as a vehicle with a lift, that would be a time to put that specialized transportation in the IEP. But, transportation can be needed for a variety of reasons, including reasons that have nothing to do with the student's disability. For example, if the student's parents do not have a vehicle or they are working and cannot get the student to and from school, those would be circumstances under which transportation would normally be added to the IEP.

In short, transportation should be in an IEP when it is needed by the student (as opposed to "wanted").

27. What are the duties and qualifications for an Aid or Monitor on the school bus?

Aids and Monitors assist school bus driver in ensuring the safety of the students and help in maintaining discipline while bus is in operation. They assist the bus driver in the event of an emergency, maintaining proper records and documentation as required for the transportation of students and assist in student loading, unloading and seating.

It is recommended they have same training as bus driver with the exception of CDL, however it is not required. An Aid or monitor may be required by an IEP and the IEP may stipulate the training. HeadStart operations require a monitor on the bus.

PRE-TRIP AND POST TRIP

28. Are bus drivers required by law to check the bus for students at the end of a trip?

YES

KAR 91-38-7

29. Are School Bus Drivers required to do a pre-trip inspection of the bus prior to operating it?

YES.

KAR 91-38-7

30. Are teachers, coaches and other school personnel required to do a pre-trip inspection of a school passenger vehicle prior to operating it?

YES. If the driver will be transporting students

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31. How often does a pre-trip need to be performed on an activity/school bus?

Kansas regulation state a bus driver shall inspect the bus "before its use to ascertain that the vehicle is in a safe condition and equipped as required by law, and that all required equipment is in working order." The pre-trip inspection is required to be documented in writing. As a rule of thumb, if the bus driver is out of the driver's seat of the bus for more than one and a half (1 ½) hours a new pre-trip needs to be done on the bus.

KAR 91-38-7

32. How often does a pre-trip inspection need to be performed on a school passenger vehicle?

Before each trip and before each return trip when transporting students.

12 & 15 PASSENGER RATED VANS

33. Can a public or private school use a 12 or 15 passenger rated van to transport students?

NO. Only Passenger vehicles designed and rated for no more than 10 passengers plus the driver can be used to transport students.

KSA 72-64,100

34. Can a booster club or other school organization rent a 12 or 15 passenger rated van to transport students to an event?

NO. Only Passenger vehicles designed and rated for no more than 10 passengers plus the driver can be used to transport students.

KSA 72-64,100

CDL (Commercial Driver's License)

35. Do I need to have a CDL to drive a School Bus?

Depends. If the bus is rated for 14 passengers or less plus the driver and the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of less than 26,001 pounds the answer is NO.

A class "A" or "B", CDL is required for school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more and/or rated for passenger capacity of 16 or more, including the driver

36. What endorsements do I need on my CDL to operate a school bus?

You need both the P and S endorsement. You will also need the air brake restriction removed if the bus is equipped with air brakes.

37. If I am a mechanic and only test drive the bus, do I need a CDL and a P & S endorsement?

NO you do not need the "P" and "S" endorsement if you never transport students.

A class "A" or "B", CDL is required for school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more and/or rated for passenger capacity of 16 or more, including the driver
FMCSA 383.93 Guidance

38. If I already have a "P" endorsement, what will I need to obtain the S endorsement?

You will need to take the written and skills test for the S endorsement.

39. If I only drive an activity bus for a school do I need the S endorsement?

YES. You need the S endorsement due to the fact you are transporting students.

40. Can I use a coach style activity bus to take the CDL skills test for the S endorsement?

NO.

41. Can I drive a school bus with hydraulic brakes but equipped with an air assisted parking brake if my CDL is restricted to vehicles without air brakes?

YES.

FMCSA 383.95 Guidance

42. Can I drive out of state with a school bus if I select category #2 on my medical self-certification?

YES.

43. I am formerly a Nebraska resident and have a Nebraska CDL. I just moved to Kansas and became a Kansas resident and started driving a school bus in Kansas. How long do I have to get a Kansas CDL?

30 days for a CDL. 90 days on a regular driver's license.

Note: Nebraska is just being used as an example. This would apply to Missouri, Oklahoma etc.

KSA 8- 2,134

44. Are school bus drivers, who are CDL holders, eligible for a diversion is they receive a traffic citation while driving their personal passenger vehicle?

No. CDL holders are not eligible for a diversion regardless of what type of vehicle they are driving when they receive the traffic citation.

KSA 8-2,150

45. Is there a waiting period for taking a CDL skills test after passing the written CDL test?

Yes. 14 days. This applies to the CLP (Commercial Learners Permit) and any endorsement or restriction modification on a CDL.

49 CFR 383.25

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46. Can I obtain a CDL and drive a school/activity bus if I have a past DUI conviction?

Maybe. Kansas regulations state you cannot drive a school/activity bus if you have had a DUI conviction within the past 10 years. A school board may waive this disqualification with a unanimous vote of the full board. However, an individual is disqualified for life from obtaining a CDL after a second DUI conviction under Kansas law and this disqualification cannot be waived. An individual with a DUI arrest/conviction, may also need to complete a SAP (Substance Abuse Program) under Federal DOT regulations prior to driving a school/activity bus. Please contact the School Bus Safety Unit for more guidance.

KAR 91-38-6, 49 CRF Part 40

47. Is there a minimum age requirement to become a school bus driver?

The minimum age requirement for a CLP is 18. If an individual can pass CDL testing and meet all other legal criteria, he or she would be eligible to drive a school bus on a route at age 18. However, Kansas School Bus Regulations require the driver of an activity bus to be 21 years of age. CDL holders between the age of 18 and 21 years of age must be a Kansas resident and would not be allowed to drive out of the state of Kansas. You should check with your insurance carrier, which may also have age requirements.

KAR 91-38-6, 49 CFR 383.25

48. Can I drive a Kansas School Bus if I live in Oklahoma and have a valid Oklahoma CDL with a P and S endorsement and a current DOT physical?

Yes. CDL holders are required by law to be licensed in the state in which they reside. As long as the driver maintains residency in Oklahoma, the driver is required to have an Oklahoma CDL and can legally drive a Kansas school bus.

Note: This would apply to any of the bordering states such as Colorado, Missouri and Nebraska also.

49. What medications disqualify a CMV or Activity/ School Bus driver?

A driver cannot take a controlled substance or prescription medication without a prescription from a licensed practitioner. If a driver uses a drug identified in 21 CFR 1308.11 or any other substance such as amphetamine, a narcotic, or any other habit-forming drug, the driver is medically unqualified. There is an exception: the prescribing doctor can write that the driver is safe to be a commercial driver while taking the medication. In this case, the Medical Examiner may, but does not have to certify the driver. Any anti-seizure medication used for the prevention of seizures is disqualifying. Methadone use is disqualifying.

The Medical Examiner has 2 ways to determine if any medication a driver uses will adversely affect safe operation of a CMV: (1.) Review each medication - prescription, non-prescription and supplement. (2.) Request a letter from the prescribing doctor.

FMCSA website, 21 CFR 1308.11

FIRST AID, CPR & ACCIDENT PREVENTION COURSE (Defensive Driving)

50. What course providers are accepted for the First Aid /CPR requirement for school bus drivers?

Medic First Aid, American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI), American Red Cross, American Heart Association, and National Safety Council (NSC) First Aid.

Remember that training requires ALL drivers to demonstrate and perform compressions, for a certified instructor, on a traditional responsive CPR manikin.

51. Can a bus driver take an online course for First Aid/CPR requirement?

No, not in its entirety. The First Aid portion can be done online, provided it is all the same curriculum from one of our accepted providers. You cannot mix and match curriculum or providers. The curriculum shall be done in accordance with the curriculum's parameters. If the instructor is not present while the online portion of the training is being administered there shall be individual documentation for each student completing the online portion (this is to prevent the student from taking the training at home, pressing the play button, and going outside to mow the lawn). Be aware if the instructor is not present for the online portion of the training there is an additional cost for the documentation and will most likely double or even triple the cost of the training. As a final thought remember these individuals are transporting students and we want them adequately and professionally trained in the event a student has a medical emergency.

The compressions MUST be demonstrated in the presence of a certified instructor on a traditional responsive CPR manikin. There are no exceptions to this!

52. What course providers are accepted for the Accident Prevention Course requirement?

American Auto Association (AAA), National Safety Council (NSC), Smith System, AARP Driver Safety Program, 3-D Hartford. Online Courses are not accepted for this legally mandated requirement. An instructor must be in the classroom while the training is being administered and the class must meet the 8-hour requirement. This class CANNOT be administered remotely, virtually, via zoom, etc.

53. How often do drivers have to complete an accident prevention course?

Every 3 years.
KAR 91-38-6

54. I was primarily hired as a coach, however I also drive an activity/school bus and transport students on routes and or athletic events. Do I need First Aid CPR, Accident Prevention Course and attend Safety Meetings?

Yes. There are no exceptions for anybody who drives a school bus.

55. I was primarily hired as a coach/teacher, I only drive a school passenger vehicle and transport students to sport activities. Do I need First Aid/CPR an Accident Prevention Course?

No legal requirement. Only individuals primarily hired to provide transportation are required. This does not prevent a school district from establishing their own policies requiring it however.

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CDL, DRUG / ALCOHOL TESTING, MEDICAL SELF-CERTIFICATION & DOT PHYSICAL

56. What Medical Self-Certification Category should I choose?

If you are employed by a school district and only drive a bus for the school district you should choose category #2 on your medical self-certification. This category allows you to drive interstate (out of state) and does not require your physical be sent into the Kansas Department of Revenue. The DOT physical is still required under Kansas Department of Education Regulations governing school buses and school bus drivers and a medical examiners certificate must be kept on file with the district/employer.

KAR 91-38-6

57. Do I need to carry a copy of medical examiners certificate on my person when driving a school bus?

No. However, the school is required to have a copy of your medical examiners certificate in their files.

58. Do I need to show the CDL examiner my DOT Physical Card when applying for or renewing my CDL?

NO, provided you are a category 2 or 4 driver on your medical self-certification category. Other categories – maybe.

59. Do I need to send a copy of my DOT Physical into the state's driver control?

NO, provided you are a category 2 or 4 on your medical self-certification category.

If you are a category #1 or #3 driver, YES.

60. I drive a 14-passenger rated school bus, which does not require a CDL, do I still need a DOT physical?

YES.

KAR 91-38-6

61. Do I need a DOT physical if I am a category #2 driver on my medical self-certification?

YES. Anyone who drives an activity bus or school bus needs a DOT physical regardless of the individual's medical self-certification category.

Note: The physical requirement comes from Kansas school bus regulations and not FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) regulations.

62. I only transport students in school passenger vehicle, do I need a DOT physical?

YES. If you were primarily hired to provide transportation.

KAR 91-38-6

63. I occasionally drive an activity/school bus for the school, I was hired as a teacher and coach. Do I need a DOT Physical?

YES. Anyone who drives an activity/school bus must have a DOT Physical regardless of what the individual was primarily hired for. There are not any exceptions for anybody who drives a school bus.

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- 64. Do all school district personnel who drive school vehicles need to be in the school's alcohol and drug testing pool?**
No. Only those employees who have CDL's and drive vehicles which require CDL's. Non CDL holders/drivers if tested under school policy would have to be in a separate alcohol and drug testing pool. See our website for more information on Drug & Alcohol Information testing FMCSA requirement
- 65. Does a bus mechanic employed by the school have to be in the drug and alcohol testing pool?**
Yes, if the mechanic has a CDL and test drives the buses on any public road, street or highway. See our website for more information on Drug & Alcohol Information testing FMCSA requirement
- 66. Do I need a DOT physical even though I don't have a CDL?**
Yes. Anyone driving an activity bus or a school bus is required a DOT physical. A bus is a bus and a you are required a physical when driving Non CDL bus. You are also required a DOT physical if you were primarily hired to provide transportation in a school passenger vehicle

TEACHERS & COACHES

- 67. I was primarily hired as a coach/teacher, however I also drive a school passenger vehicle and transport students to sport activities. Do I need First Aid/CPR an Accident Prevention Course and attend Safety Meetings?**
No. Provided you only drive school passenger vehicles. If you get behind the wheel of any bus the answer is Yes.
- 68. I was primarily hired as a coach, however I also drive a school bus and transport students to athletic events and activities. Do I need First Aid CPR, Accident Prevention Course and attend Safety Meetings?**
Yes. There are not any exceptions for anybody who drives a school bus.
- 69. I was primarily hired as a coach/teacher, however I also drive a school passenger vehicle and transport students to sport activities. Do I need a DOT physical?**
No legal requirement. Only individuals primarily hired to provide transportation are required. This does not prevent a school district from establishing their own policies requiring it however.
- 70. Are teachers, coaches and other school personnel required to do a pre-trip inspection of a school passenger vehicle prior to operating it?**
YES. If transporting students, the teacher, coach or other school employee is required to inspect the vehicle before each trip and each return trip.

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SCHOOL BUS AND SCHOOL BUS OPERATIONS

71. Do I need to go through the bid process if I am leasing a bus?

If it is a lease/purchase agreement, then yes. Kansas Law requires any purchase over \$20,000 use the bid process. A Lease with an option to buy is considered a purchase. If your lease is a straight lease with no option to buy, no bids are needed. Please note there are very few straight leases which do not have the option to buy at the end.

KSA 72-1151

72. Can the school or school bus owner take out and remove seats from a school bus used to transport students?

NO. All modifications are prohibited unless done and approved by the manufacturer. Also seat modifications in particular can affect the compartmentalization features of the school bus.

KAR 91-38-4

73. Can the school or school bus owner install mounted hand sanitizers or protective barriers such as curtains or plexiglass shields on the bus?

No. These are considered a modification to the bus and are illegal under Kansas law.

KAR 91-38-4

74. Does the school district need registration tags/license plates on a school bus?

NO. However if the bus is an activity style bus the answer would be yes.

75. Can a school district use dyed diesel or ruby red diesel in a school bus?

YES. Provided the school bus does not have a license plate on it.

More fuel tax information is available on our website.

76. Can an oxygen cylinder be transported in a school bus?

Yes. Provided:

- Cylinder doesn't exceed 220 lbs (should be no larger than 38 cubic feet per National Standards)
- Cylinder is properly secured
- Cylinder is marked with the UN ID number
- Cylinder is labeled with the oxygen placard

Note: Securement devices are available for use with track seating Materials of Trade (MOT) §177.870, § 173.6, National Standards

77. Can I use a school bus which is not painted school bus yellow to transport students from home to school or school to home

NO. Only school buses painted school bus yellow can be used to transport students from home to school or school to home.

Note: Color does not apply to school passenger vehicles such as a suburban or a van rated for no more than 10 plus the driver.

KAR 91-38-4

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78. Can an activity bus be used to pick up a special needs child at their home?

Only a yellow school bus can be used to transport students home to school and school to home.

79. Can we decorate our school bus?

NO. The bus windows cannot be painted, written on, or covered in any way. The school bus markings and equipment cannot be covered or altered in any way. Nothing can interfere with the safe operation of the bus, inside or out. No Christmas or other holiday lighting. No vanity/custom tags.

KSA 8-1741, KAR 91-38-4

80. How is the 25-year age requirement for school buses determined?

The 25-year requirement is based on the date of manufacture, NOT the model year which can be found on the manufacturer's identification sticker/plate along with the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number).

8-2009a

81. Can our bus that exceeds the 25-year age limit be used as an activity bus?

Yes. The 25-year age limit only applies to route buses. If you elect to keep an old yellow route bus and use it for an activity bus, you will need to remove the stop arm and change the eight-way light lenses to all amber lenses in the front and all red lenses to the rear. You will also need to remove the "School Bus" lettering from the front and back bulkhead.

KSA 8-2009a, KSA 72-6486

82. The school district is selling a bus. Do we need to repaint the bus and remove the stop arm?

NO. We recommend removing your School District Decals by utilizing a heat gun and peeling off the decals, but it is the buyer's responsibility to make the necessary modifications to the bus.

KSA 72-6496

83. Can we use a seatbelt extender for a school bus driver?

Yes. The extender is normally manufacturer specific. When using the extender, the male and female buckle parts must match the seat belt buckles you plan on using the extender on.

84. We have a driver who cannot reach the pedals on the school bus. Are pedal extenders allowed on the school bus?

Yes, provided they are a commercially and specifically made for the purpose of extending the distance of the pedals. Must be properly installed per the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions. No blocks of wood or homemade extenders allowed.

85. Can a school district lease its school buses to a contractor?

No. Kansas law prohibits a school district from becoming a lessor of school buses.

KSA 72-1149

86. Our Insurance Company totaled out our bus due to hail damage. Can we keep the bus, repair the damage and continue to operate the bus?

Yes. You will need to work with the insurance company let them know your intentions and ask for an owner retained salvage title. After making repairs you will need to apply and complete the steps for a rebuilt salvage title through your local county treasurer. The repaired vehicle must meet all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, National School Bus Standards, Kansas law and pass the school bus inspection process prior to transporting students. Contact the School Bus Safety Unit with any questions.

KSA 8-198

87. Where can I find COVID-19 information for Kansas school transportation?

The KSDE School Bus Safety Unit has a webpage dedicated COVID-19 school transportation information. <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/School-Finance/School-Bus-Safety/School-Bus-COVID-19>

SCHOOL PASSENGER VEHICLE

88. Is Safety Equipment (Fire Extinguisher, First Aid Kit, Triangles, Seatbelt Cutter & Body Fluid Clean Up Kit) required in a school passenger vehicle?

No. This optional and up to the school district and or contractor to decide if they wish to equip their school passenger vehicles with this equipment.

89. Do School Passenger Vehicles need to be marked and identified?

Yes. Kansas law requires all motor vehicles owned or leased by any political subdivision of the state of to bear the name of the political subdivision owning or leasing such vehicle plainly printed on both sides regardless of whether the vehicle is being used for student transportation.

KSA 8-305

90. Our Insurance Company totaled out our suburban due to a collision involving a deer. Can we keep the suburban, repair the damage and continue to use the suburban to transport students?

Yes. You will need to work with the insurance company let them know your intentions and ask for an owner retained salvage title. After making repairs you will need to apply and complete the steps for a rebuilt salvage title through your local county treasurer. The repaired vehicle must meet all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (this includes airbags), Kansas law and pass the Kansas State Department of Education's Part I & II inspection process prior to transporting students. Contact the School Bus Safety Unit with any questions.

KSA 8-198

SEAT BELTS AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

91. When are school buses required to be manufactured with seat belts?

School buses are required to be manufactured with seat belts when the GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) is under 10,000 lbs. Buses manufactured BEFORE October 21, 2011 are required to have Type 1 (lap belts) and buses manufactured AFTER October 21, 2011 are required to have Type 2 (lap/shoulder belts).

49 C.F.R., Part 571

92. Why don't we have seat belts on school buses?

Compartmentalization. The seats on the school bus are placed a certain distance apart from each other and have high backs that are very padded. As a result, in an accident the student would be propelled forward a very short distance into a padded seatback that in a way is like an early version of an airbag. In addition, occupants of a bus have a higher ride height so most impacts would occur lower and be absorbed by the frame below. For compartmentalization to work, a student has to be old enough to sit up straight in the seat with his/her legs facing forward on their own.

93. If seat belts are installed on the bus do they have to be used?

Use of seat belts on a school bus are not required by Kansas law.

94. We purchased a school bus with seat belts. Can they be removed completely from the bus?

Yes, provided the gross vehicle weight rating is more than 10,000 lbs.

95. Do small children need to be transported in a child safety seat on the school bus?

It depends if the child can utilize the compartmentalization features of the seat. A child has to be old enough to sit up straight in the seat with his/her legs facing forward on their own for compartmentalization to work.

HeadStart regulations require the use of child safety restraints.

NHTSA has a program titled, "Child Passenger Safety Seats on the School Bus" that can be presented to your school transportation personnel by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, to provide your drivers and attendants with better information when transporting students/children child safety restraint systems. It should also be noted that there are now seats readily available that are designed specifically for school buses, but only for forward-facing configuration.

96. Can I Transport an Infant on a school bus?

Yes, but only if the bus is manufactured with seatbelts or a LATCH system. You must be able to properly secure a rear-facing Child Safety seat. The child seat must not come in contact with the seat in front of the installation location.

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97. When transporting students in a school passenger vehicle, do the students need child seats or are seat belts sufficient?

School Passenger Vehicles are required to have seatbelts and or child restraints for every student being transported in a vehicle rated for no more than 10 passengers plus the driver, with the following requirements:

- (1) For a child under the age of four years an appropriate child passenger safety restraining system that meets or exceeds the standards and specifications contained in federal motor vehicle safety standard no. 213;
- (2) for a child four years of age, but under the age of eight years and who weighs less than 80 pounds or is less than 4 feet 9 inches in height, an appropriate child passenger safety restraining system that meets or exceeds the standards and specifications contained in federal motor vehicle safety standard no. 213; or
- (3) for a child eight years of age but under the age of 14 years or who weighs more than 80 pounds or is more than 4 feet 9 inches in height, a safety belt manufactured in compliance with federal motor vehicle safety standard no. 208.

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