



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

OFFICE OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

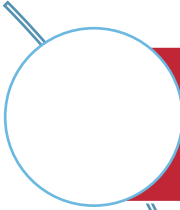
Updates for 2025

schoolbus@education.ohio.gov

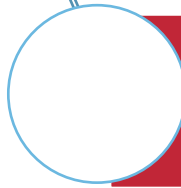
614-466-4230



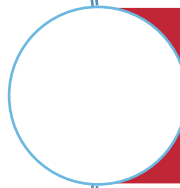
BIG THEMES



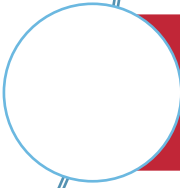
Transportation Rule Changes- Stakeholder Input



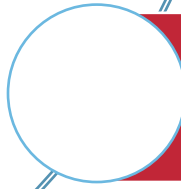
Transportation Rule Changes- Housekeeping Changes



Ohio School Bus Safety Workgroup Recommendations



Transportation Budget Bill (FY 26-27) **HB 54 Changes**



State Budget Bill (FY 24-25 – **HB 33) (FY 26-27 – **HB 96**) Changes**

Administrative Rule Changes July 2025



OHIO LAWS & ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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This website publishes administrative rules on their effective dates, as designated by the adopting state agencies, colleges, and universities.

Chapter 3301-83 | Pupil Transportation

Ohio Administrative Code / 3301

[Expand All](#)[Close All](#)

Rule

Rule 3301-83-01 | Calculation of pupil transportation operation payments.

Rule 3301-83-04 | Scope and definition.

Rule 3301-83-05 | Administration.

Rule 3301-83-06 | Personnel qualifications.

Rule 3301-83-07 | School transportation driver physical qualifications rule.

Rule 3301-83-08 | Pupil transportation management policies.

Rule 3301-83-09 | Pupil instruction.

Rule 3301-83-10 | Personnel training program.

Rule 3301-83-11 | School bus inspections.



OHIO LAWS & ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

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Rule 3301-83-12 | Safety procedures.

Rule 3301-83-13 | School bus routes and stops.

Rule 3301-83-14 | Records and reports.

Rule 3301-83-15 | Emergency and evacuation procedures.

Rule 3301-83-16 | Non-routine use of school buses.

Rule 3301-83-17 | Authorized and unauthorized passengers.

Rule 3301-83-18 | Passenger capacity.

Rule 3301-83-19 | Authorized vehicles for transportation of pupils to and from school and school-related events.

Rule 3301-83-20 | General rules.

Rule 3301-83-21 | Supplementary provisions for county boards of developmental disabilities.

Rule 3301-83-22 | Vehicle maintenance.

Rule 3301-83-23 | Employment of school bus and van drivers with certain criminal convictions.

Rule 3301-83-24 | School transportation fees.

Rule 3301-83-25 | Transportation collaboration grant.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE NEW PUPIL TRANSPORTATION RULES?

- **NEW!** [Pupil Transportation Operations and Safety Manual 2025](#)
- The official copy of the latest rules can be found [here](#).
- **Overview :** [July 2025 Pupil Transportation Rule Changes](#)
- All **ORC 3327**. Pupil Transportation Laws may be found [here](#).
- In your pre-service manual – **July 2025 edition**

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK- RULE CHANGES

Rule 3301-83-10 Personnel training program

- Driver Pre-Service on-the-bus instruction – **defensive driving** is added (no change in minimum hours/still 12 hours)
- Driver Pre-Service classroom instruction – **driver liability and responsibility is added** (no change in minimum hours/still 15 hours)
- **Van drivers:** same minimum hours (4) but training similar to bus drivers added for **preschool and special needs children**.

Rule 3301-83-10 Personnel training program

- Advanced class substitute for renewal certificate classroom instruction, and Road-e-o participation substitute for driving skills portion can be used so long as **completed within the 6-year certificate period** rather than within **2 years prior** to the certificate expiration as in current rule.

Rule 3301-83-14 Records and reports

- Copy of T-10 needs to be **printed and emailed** to OSHP within 15 days of the accident (adlcs@dps.ohio.gov)
- Notify OSHP within 48 hours of **ANY** school bus/van accidents involving injury or property damage



Rule 3301-83-17 Authorized and unauthorized passengers

- (B) Unauthorized passengers – **new language:** *According to policies adopted by the district or educational service center board of education or governing body of the community or chartered nonpublic school, that owns the bus, authorizing its buses to be used in **emergency situations** to transport passengers.*
- *Note the distinction between this and [RC 3327.018 Transportation contracts for bus use by outside entities](#)*

Rule 3301-83-22 Vehicle maintenance

- School buses are to be inspected on at least a **quarterly** basis by a qualified mechanic



HOUSEKEEPING



- Reduce Regulatory Restrictions
 - a. “must, shall, require, prohibit, may not”
 - b. Stunts economic growth + administrative clutter
 - c. National movement Ohio part of this since 2019
- Review and consider removing language that:
 - a. Is duplicative of other law or rules
 - b. Conflicts with other law/rules
 - c. Has an adverse impact on business
- Organizing language for better ease of reference
 - Language moved from one rule to another based on subject matter
 - Adding definitions to 8-04 that apply to the entire Chapter 3301-83
- Correct any typos & grammar errors

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WORKGROUP



Driver Professional Development

- **3301-83-10(I):** Districts should identify, share, and encourage bus drivers to participate in professional development opportunities

Wellness Support for School Bus Drivers

- **3301-83-05 (D):** School bus owners will implement personnel policies and/or programs for bus drivers that include wellness support programming offered by DEW & DPS specific to bus drivers and encouraging drivers to utilize the programming

Driver Annual Performance Evaluations

- **3301-83-05(D):** School bus owners will implement personnel policies and/or programs for bus drivers that include annual performance reviews, that are recommended to include driving evaluations, implemented no later than the next effective applicable collective bargaining unit agreement date

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WORKGROUP



Back to School Safety Orientation for Parents/Guardians and Students

3301-83-09: (A) Student, parent and/or guardian school bus safety orientation program. **At the beginning of each school year, school districts will:**

- (1) Offer opportunities for students, along with their parents or guardians, to meet their bus drivers, tour a bus and learn about school safety;
- (2) Provide families with take-home materials that parents and guardians can use to encourage positive school bus behaviors;
- (3) When possible, school bus safety orientations should be incorporated into existing school-required orientations, meetings or assemblies.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WORKGROUP

Safety Audits

Rule 3301-83-13 (F) School districts will conduct **safety audits of their bus routes, bus stops, and school pick-up/drop off sites on school property, not less than annually**, to reduce safety risks and mitigate the severity of school bus accidents. It is recommended that district bus drivers' input be considered in conducting audits. Safety audits include an examination of:

- (1) Left turns, to determine whether route adjustments can be made to avoid crossing oncoming lanes of traffic;
- (2) Structural components of bus routes that can impact bus safety such as high speed limits, traffic congestion, areas of low visibility, and areas with steep drop-offs adjacent to the roadway;
- (3) School bus stops, to minimize school bus stops that necessitate students crossing a roadway;
- (4) The efficiency of individual bus routes.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WORKGROUP

Commercial /Charter Bus Contracts

Rule 3301-83-19(D)(3)

“Districts, educational service centers, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools who contract with commercial carriers (e.g., charter buses) are responsible for ensuring the safety of student and other passengers when utilizing commercial carriers. School boards and governing bodies should adopt and implement policies that include, but are not limited to:” [10 items to consider]

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WORKGROUP

Commercial /Charter Bus Contracts

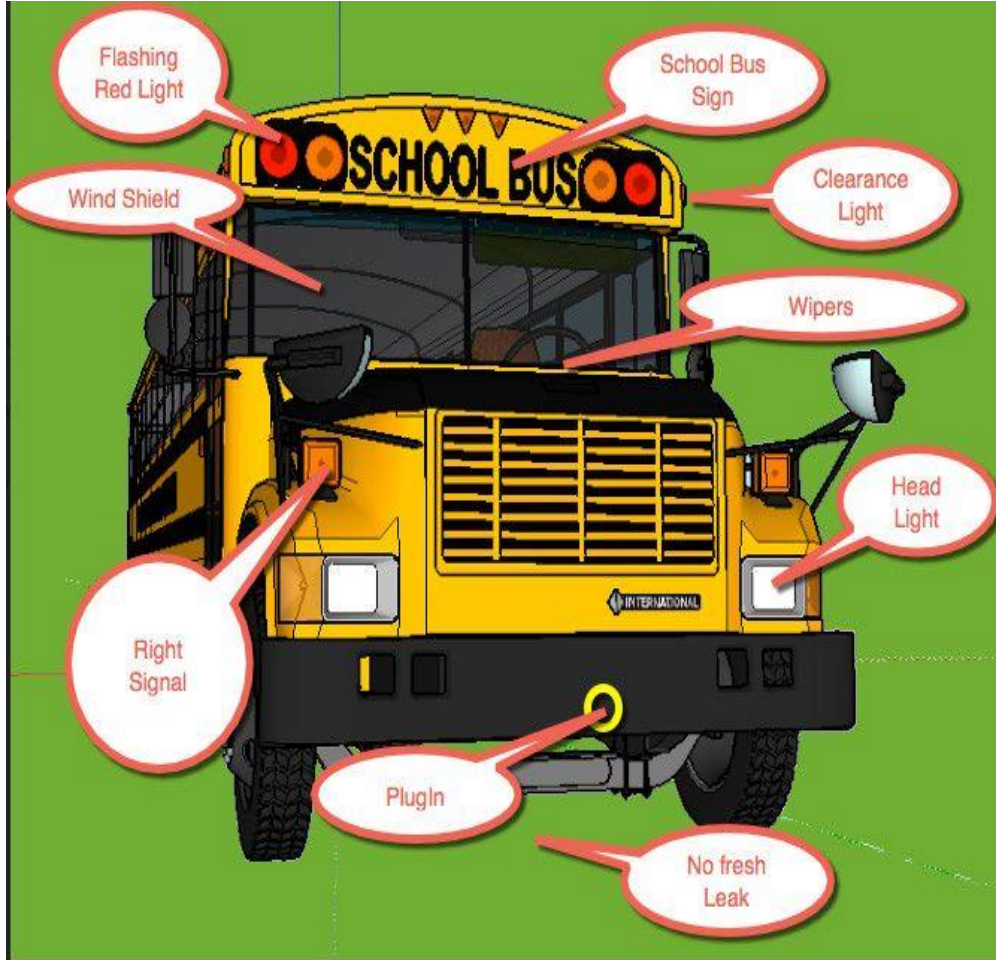
Rule 3301-83-19(D)(3)

“What is the vendor’s safety record and accident history as verified through [SAFER WEB](#), and does the vendor have a satisfactory rating with the U.S. Department of Transportation”.

- ❖ *Many charter bus companies subcontract for local vendors. You may not find the charter bus company in SAFER WEB. You need to know who the subcontractor is to search for their safety record.*
- ❖ *SAFER WEB provides insurance and accident record information but does not provide information about company policies/procedures (roadside breakdowns, emergencies, evacuations, driver work schedules to avoid fatigue).*



LEGISLATIVE CHANGES



HB 54: Pre-Trip Inspection

- ❖ **HB 54** – Lists certain items that DEW cannot require in rule language as part of the school bus pre-trip inspection.
- ❖ School bus employers may impose whatever pre-trip inspection items they wish.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

HB 54: Pre-Trip Inspection

Rule 3301-83-11 School Bus Inspections

HB 54 Sec. 4511.765. (A) The director of education and workforce, by and with the advice of the director of public safety, shall amend any rules adopted under section 4511.76 of the Revised Code pertaining to pre-trip inspections of a school bus. The amendment shall remove any requirement that the following equipment be included in the pre-trip inspection:

- (1) The turbo charger; - *this is not a part of the pre-trip inspection in the rule*
- (2) The alternator; - *the rule does not require an inspection of the “alternator” but a check to see if **alternator warning lights are on***
- (4) The water pump; - *this is not a part of the pre-trip inspection in the rule*

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

HB 54: Pre-Trip Inspection

- (5) The power steering pump; *this is not a part of the pre-trip inspection in the rule*
- (6) The air pump; *this is not a part of the pre-trip inspection in the rule*
- (7) Any part of the steering system; - *the current rule does not require a pre-trip inspection of “the steering system,”*
- (8) Any part of the suspension; *rule is revised to remove from the pre-trip:* **“visual check for damage to the suspension system”**
- (9) Any part of the air brakes; *the rule is revised to remove from the pre-trip:* **“Visually inspect brake system secure - no damage”**
- (10) Any part of the brake equipment, including drums or rotors; *the rule as revised removes from the pre-trip:* **“Visually inspect brake system secure - no damage”**
- (11) The springs and spring mounts; *this is not a part of the pre-trip inspection in the rule*
- (12) The air bags. *this is not a part of the pre-trip inspection in the rule*



Ohio House Bill 54 allows the use of “ALTERNATIVE vehicles” effective June 30, 2025

ORC 4511.76 (H)

As used in this section:

- (1) **"Alternative vehicle"** means a motor vehicle originally manufactured and designed for not more than **twelve** passengers, not including the driver.
- (2) "Vehicle used for pupil transportation" means any vehicle that is identified as such by the Department of Education and Workforce by rule and that is subject to Chapter 3301-83 of the Administrative Code.

What changed:

Ohio previously allowed vehicles designed for **not more than 9 passengers**, not including the driver, to be used for routine transportation of certain populations (community school/chartered nonpublic school children, preschool children, special needs children, homeless children, foster children, children inaccessible to school buses, students placed in alternative schools or for work programs). **HB 54 changes the maximum size to 12 passengers, not including the driver.**



ORC 4511.76 (E)

A **chartered nonpublic school or a community school** may own and operate, or contract with a vendor that supplies, **alternative vehicles** to transport students to and from regularly scheduled school sessions, school-related activities, and school-sanctioned events when one of the following applies:

1. A student's school district of residence has declared the transportation of the student impractical pursuant to section [3327.02](#) of the Revised Code;
2. A student does not live within thirty minutes of the chartered nonpublic school or the community school, as applicable, and the student's school district is not required to transport the student under section [3327.01](#) of the Revised Code.
3. The governing authority of the chartered nonpublic or the community school has offered to provide the transportation for its students in lieu of the students being transported by their school district of residence.

ORC 4511.76 (F)

A **school district** may own and operate, or contract with a vendor that supplies, **alternative vehicles** to transport students to and from regularly scheduled school sessions, school-related activities, and school-sanctioned events.

What changed:

School districts may use these vehicles for to transport **any student** to and from regularly scheduled school sessions, school-related activities, and school-sanctioned events.



ORC 4511.76 (G)

A school district or the governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school or community school that uses an alternative vehicle in accordance with division (E) or (F) of this section, shall ensure that **all of the following apply to the operation of that vehicle:**

- (1) A qualified mechanic inspects the vehicle not fewer than two times each year and determines that it is safe for pupil transportation;
- (2) The driver of the vehicle does not stop on the roadway to load or unload passengers;
- (3) The driver of the vehicle meets the requirements specified for a driver of a school bus or motor van under section [3327.10](#) of the Revised Code and any corresponding rules adopted by the department of education and workforce. Notwithstanding that section or any department rules to the contrary, the driver is not required to have a commercial driver's license but shall have a current, valid driver's license, and shall be accustomed to operating the vehicle used to transport the students ;
- (4) The driver and all passengers in the vehicle comply with the requirements of sections [4511.81](#) and [4513.263](#) of the Revised Code, as applicable.

Legal and Student Safety Considerations in Using 12-passenger vehicles

Historically, there are safety and legal reasons that 11+ passenger vehicles have not been authorized in Ohio for universal home-to-school transportation of Ohio children. These remain relevant in considering what type of vehicle to use for student transportation needs.

Student Safety

The Governor's School Bus Safety Workgroup Report (January 2024, p.7), indicates:

"... members concluded that school buses remain the safest mode of transportation for students traveling to and from school. Data from the Ohio State Highway Patrol show that school buses are involved in less than 1% of all crashes in the state."



NASDPTS POSITION PAPER

- Research substantiates the risks associated with larger vans. See National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) 2025 Alternative Transportation Position Paper (Position Paper). *The Position Paper may be accessed on the Department's website.*
- The Position Paper was designed to help states as they work toward ensuring safe transportation and meeting vehicle requirements as they strive to protect student safety.
- Per the Position Paper:
“Using vehicles other than school buses compromises student safety and heightens the potential for disastrous crashes with student injuries and fatalities. Thus, alternative transportation should be avoided except when completely necessary to meet specific students’ school transportation needs and when proper oversight and safety regulations are established.” (p.2)
- The Position Paper provides information concerning federal law, which regulates the sale or lease of new vehicles used for student transportation (p.3). Federal law does not regulate the use of these vehicles after the first sale.

FEDERAL LAW – PURCHASE OR LEASE OF NEW 12-PASSENGER VEHICLES

See: 49 U.S.C.A. § 30112 . Prohibitions on manufacturing, selling, and importing noncomplying motor vehicles and equipment (eff December 4, 2015):

“(a)(1) Except as provided in this section, "30114 of this title, and subchapter III of this chapter, a person may not manufacture for sale, sell, offer for sale, introduce or deliver for introduction in interstate commerce, or import into the United States, any motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufactured on or after the date an applicable motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter takes effect unless the vehicle or equipment complies with the standard and is covered by a certification issued under section 30115 of this title.”

As referenced in the above, the vehicle must “comply with the standard” under section 30115. 49 U.S.C. §30125 defines a “school bus” **as any vehicle that is designed for carrying a driver and more than 10 passengers** and which, NHTSA decides, is likely to be "used significantly" to transport "preprimary, primary, and secondary" students to or from school or related events (including school sponsored field trips and athletic events), (49 U.S.C. §30125).

FEDERAL LAW – PURCHASE OR LEASE OF NEW 12-PASSENGER VEHICLES

By NHTSA's regulation, the capacity threshold for school buses corresponds to that of buses -- vehicles designed for carrying more than ten (10) persons. This means, for example, that NHTSA categorizes a 12-passenger van (designed for carrying more than 10 persons) as a bus. This in turn means that the vehicle must comply with the standard under section 30015 for school buses.

Accordingly, dealers selling or leasing a new "school bus" must sell or lease a vehicle that meets the safety standards applicable to school buses. If a 12 passenger “van” is designed for more than 10 passengers, and is sold for student transportation, and does not comply with the standards for a school bus that would be an illegal sale.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS, DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS



VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS OAC 3301-83-19 (C):

Requirements for vehicles identified in this section shall include the following:

- (1) The vehicle shall be equipped with safety equipment including a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, body fluid cleanup kit, fuses, spare fuses, and emergency reflectors.
- (2) The vehicle shall have a **rooftop sign** marked "**School Transportation.**"
- (3) The **name** of the **school district**, or the name of the **contractor**, if applicable, shall be clearly marked on the side of the vehicle.
- (4) These vehicles shall be inspected by a qualified mechanic not less than two times per year. This inspection shall cover at the minimum all applicable sections of the school bus inspection detailed in paragraph (B) of rule [3301-83-11](#) of the Administrative Code. In addition, periodic maintenance intervals shall be established and implemented. Documentation and proof of these inspections and service procedures, in addition to all other vehicle records required under rule [3301-83-14](#) of the Administrative Code, shall be kept on file with the school district transportation department.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS OAC 3301-83-19 (C):

- (5) It is the responsibility of each vehicle driver to complete and document a **daily pre-trip inspection** before transporting pupils. The vehicle owner may designate another qualified individual to complete and record portions of the stationary inspection in lieu of the vehicle driver. Pre-trip inspection records shall be kept on file for a minimum of twelve months.
- (6) Loading of these vehicles shall be performed in compliance with the passenger, weight, and other associated restrictions as identified by the original equipment manufacturer.
- (7) Drivers of these vehicles shall meet all qualifications for school transportation drivers as identified in paragraph (B) of rule [3301-83-06](#) of the Administrative Code and section [3327.10](#) of the Revised Code.

VEHICLES MUST BE ORIGINALLY MANUFACTURED AND DESIGNED; CONSTRUCTION CAPACITY MAY NOT BE ALTERED



Although seating can be removed, the original manufactured designed capacity remains the same.

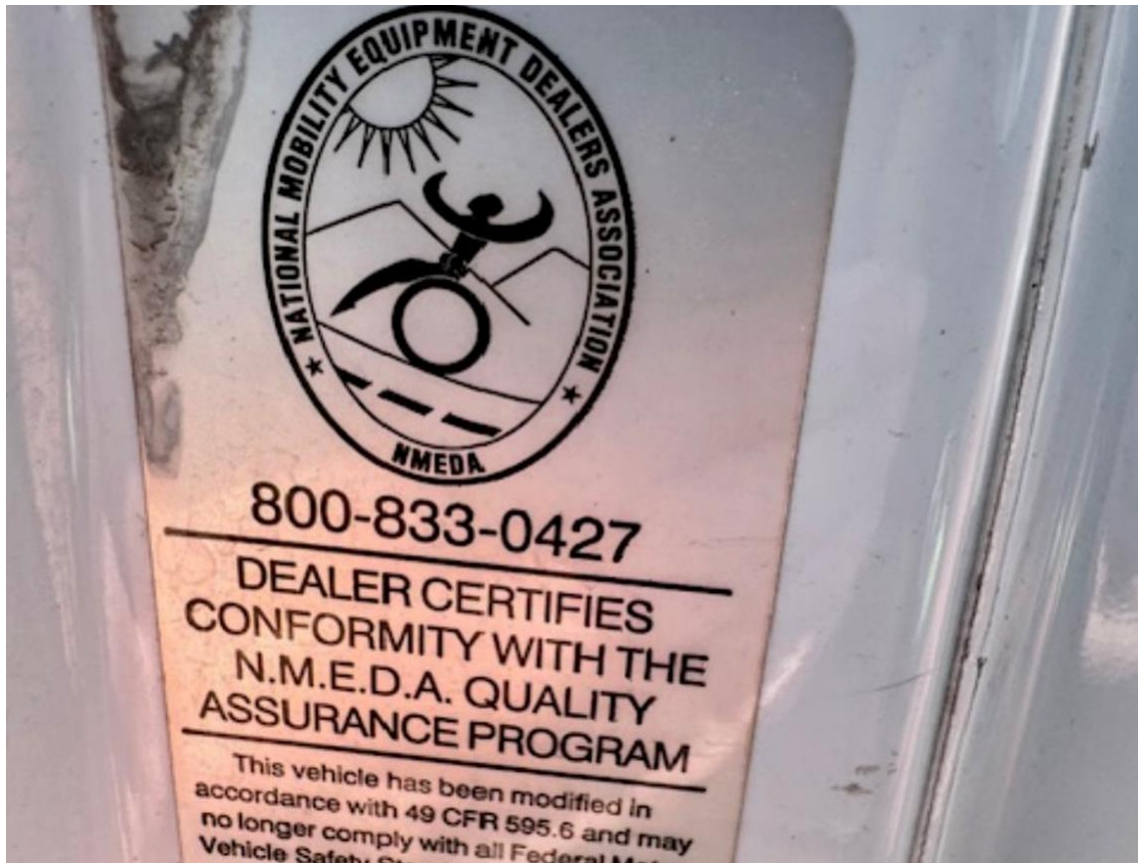
ALLOWABLE VEHICLES INCLUDE:



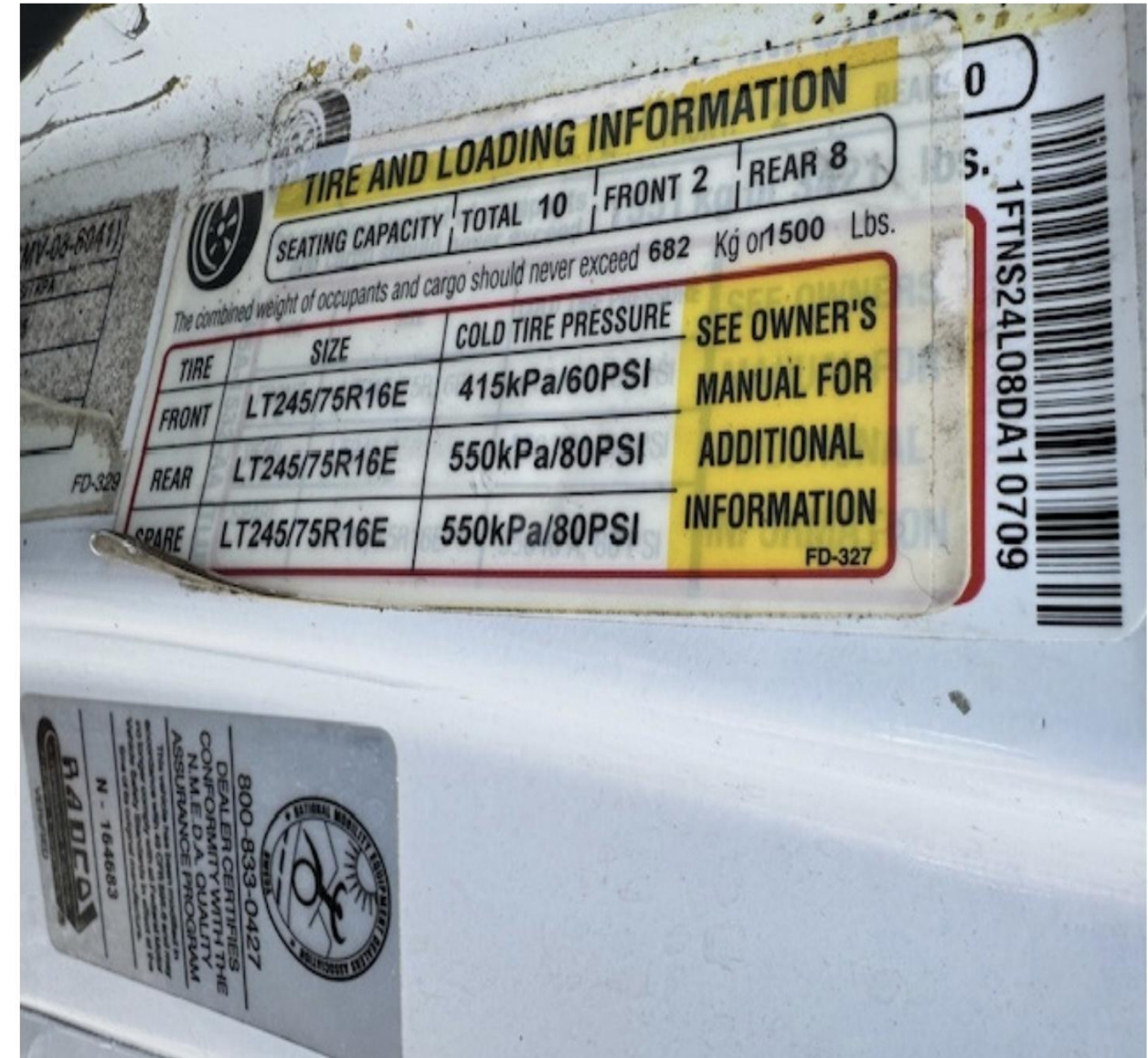
Seven and nine passenger vehicles may include bench seating or captain chairs, or third row seating



Cars, pickup trucks, crossovers, minivans, SUVs and full-size vans.



[49 CFR 595.6](#) Identification for Vehicle Modifier to Enable a Person with Disability to Operate or Ride as a Passenger. In this case, covers the addition of the wheelchair lift



OHIO BUDGET BILL (HB 96) ALLOWS THE USE OF “MULTIFUNCTION SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUSES” (MFSABs) EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

**Restricted for non-routine transportation only –
ORC 4511.76(H):**



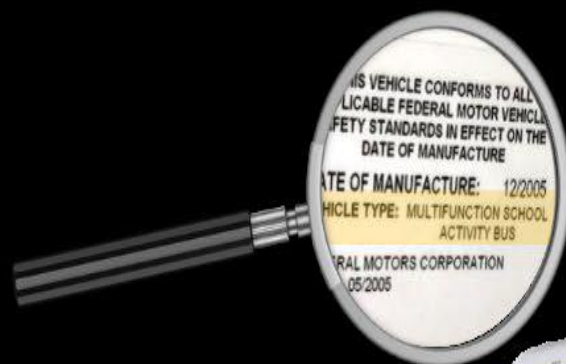
- (1) A school district, a chartered nonpublic school, or a community school may own and operate, or contract with a vendor that supplies, a multifunction school activity bus to transport students between school and school functions or activities.
- (2) A multifunction school activity bus shall not be used to transport students between school and home or between school and designated school bus stops.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

SCHOOL BUS CLASSIFICATION

Not every vehicle that looks like a bus is a school bus. Check the **vehicle certification label**, which should be located inside the bus, above the front window or door. The type should state “school bus” (not simply “bus” or “MPV”—Multi-Purpose Vehicle).

- To be classified as a school bus, a vehicle must meet the many federal safety regulations that apply to these vehicles.
- A multi-function school activity bus (MFSAB) is a school bus that meets all federal requirements for a school bus, **except it lacks traffic control devices, like alternating flashing lights and stop arms**. MFSABs may not be used for street pick-up/drop-off of students because they lack traffic control devices.
- It is sometimes hard to distinguish a MFSAB from a non-school bus (church bus, party bus, etc.).
- Check the vehicle certification label to be sure it states Multi-Function School Activity Bus or MFSAB as the type.
- For more information, see [School Bus Regulations FAQs | NHTSA](#); [Federal Register :: Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Definition of Multifunction School Activity Bus](#)



Check the vehicle certification label states MFSAB.



Could be small or large bus.



NAVIGATING THE NEW OHIO LAW

- MFSABs are **not** treated like “school buses” for operational purposes
- MFSABs **are** treated like “school buses” for purposes of State of Ohio driver qualification requirements
- CDL Drivers who never operate larger size “CMV” MFSABs should **not** be included in DOT drug/alcohol test pools

BUDGET BILL (HB 96) – OTHER PUPIL TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

School bus safety grant program

Who can apply?

School districts and JVSDs

Community schools

STEM schools

Chartered nonpublic schools

County boards of developmental disabilities

When will grant applications be available ?

September 2025 through EDSTEPS

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM

WHAT CAN FUNDS BE USED FOR?

Repair, replacement, or addition of authorized school bus safety features to school buses owned by the grant applicant in active service or for safety enhancements to the purchase of a new school bus, including installation costs.

Safety features: 13+ safety features based on the Governor's School Bus Safety Workgroup (January 2024) recommendations (e.g., all-led lights, occupant seat belts/restraints, fully illuminated stop arms).

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING?

\$10 million in FY 26

DEW WORKGROUP ON STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

WHAT IS THE WORKGROUP?

Sec. 733.80 (A) The Director of Education and Workforce shall establish a workgroup on student transportation. The workgroup shall consist of members selected by the Director and shall include representatives from each of the following:

- (1) The chairpersons of the standing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate that consider primary and secondary education legislation;
- (2) The ranking members of the standing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate that consider primary and secondary education legislation;
- (3) School districts, including districts from rural, small town, suburban, and urban typologies;
- (4) Career-technical education centers;
- (5) Educational service centers;
- (6) Community schools established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code;
- (7) Chartered nonpublic schools;
- (8) The Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation.

WHAT IS THE TASK OF THE WORKGROUP?

Monitor and review the student transportation system during the 2025-2026 school year and develop recommendations for changes to better meet the transportation needs of Ohio students;

Conduct a study of and develop recommendations regarding the feasibility of each school district board of education providing transportation to students enrolled in a community school or nonpublic school on days that the community school or nonpublic school is open for operation with students in attendance but the school district is not open for operation with students in attendance on that day.

WHEN WILL THE WORKGROUP CONVENE AND COMPLETE ITS WORK?

The Director will establish the workgroup membership and convene meetings in Fall 2025. Not later than June 30, 2026, the workgroup shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly, a report on its findings and recommendations. Upon submission of the report, the workgroup shall cease to exist.

TRANSPORTATION COMPLIANCE UPDATE



JULY 2025 NEW ONLINE SYSTEM FOR SUBMITTING AND RESPONDING TO TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS (TEM)

- No updates in the transportation enforcement law (ORC 3327.021)
- Any person who represents the interest of a student who is eligible for yellow school bus transportation services under Chapter 3327. of the Ohio Revised Code may now submit a **Transportation Concern Form (TCF)** through the Department's new ***Transportation Enforcement Management (TEM)*** platform.
- Districts will respond to TCFs using TEM

WHAT SCHOOL BUS CONCERNS CAN THE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATE? ORC 3327.021(A)

(A) As used in this section, "out of compliance" means that, for a period of **five consecutive school days or ten school days within a school year**, at least one of the following has occurred on each of those days:

- (1)** Students transported to and from school by a school bus arrive more than thirty minutes late to school;
- (2)** Students transported to and from school by a school bus are picked up more than thirty minutes after the end of the school day;
- (3)** Students scheduled to be transported to and from school by a school bus are not transported by school bus at all due to the failure of the bus to arrive;
- (4)** A school district has been noncompliant with any other transportation requirements under Chapter 3327. of the Revised Code.

COMPLAINT SUBMISSION IN TEM

My Apps

Click the star to pin your favorite apps to the



Pupil Transportation

School Transportation Application

Details

Open App

Home



Home

User

Help

Home

Pupil Transportation

Welcome to the platform and based on the appropriate roles, individuals may access the Transportation Enforcement Management (TEM) by clicking on the tile below.

You are associated with multiple districts, select a district that aligns with your goals, and if required select an audience. ***Required**

*Select Organization

None

▼

*Select Audience

Public

▼

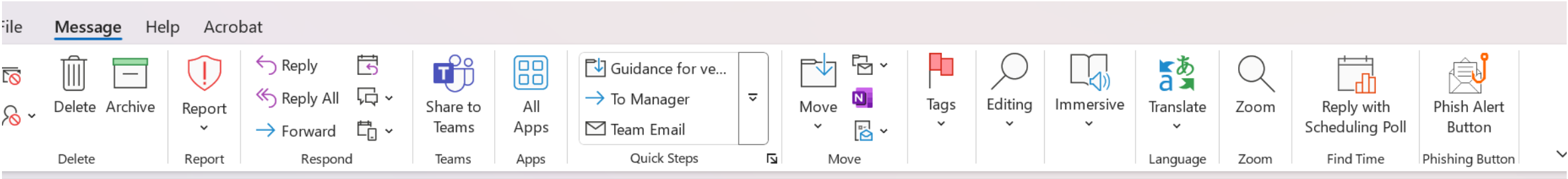
Please choose from the following programs:



TEM

Description

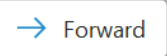
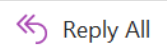
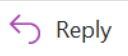
The complainant receives confirmation email their form was submitted.
The Department and District will also receive a similar email notifying them to respond.



TCF Complaint Raised #190



Ohio Department of Education and Workforce <noreply@education.ohio.gov>
To  Free, Heather



Wed 6/4/2025 1:22 PM

 Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

The Department of Education & Workforce Office of Pupil Transportation has received your transportation concern and has assigned it the following case number TCF_ID: 190.

We will review the information for and will contact you if additional information is needed.

You may use this link to view a copy of your concern form: [View TCF](#)

***** This is an auto-generated message. Please do not reply to this message *****

CAUTION: This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to csc@ohio.gov or click the Phish Alert Button if available.



QUICK LINKS

» Overview of ORC 3327.021 Enforcement Process

[Corrective Action Plan Guidance](#)

[Transportation Enforcement Process](#)

» [Improving Transportation Services for All Students](#)

[Driver Training](#)

» [Use of Vehicles Other Than School Buses \(Vans\) for Pupil Transportation](#)

[Safety](#)

[State Highway Patrol](#)

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Overview of ORC 3327.021 Enforcement Process

The information below provides a high-level overview of pupil transportation enforcement requirements in [Ohio law](#).

The Department investigates transportation-related complaints that are submitted using a [Transportation Concern Form](#) through the Department's Transportation Enforcement Management (TEM) platform.

The Department must investigate based on the complaint whether districts are "out of compliance." The law specifies that this is based on these occurrences:

1. Students transported to and from school by a school bus arrive more than 30 minutes late to school;
2. Students transported to and from school by a school bus are picked up more than 30 minutes after the end of the school day;
3. Students scheduled to be transported to and from school by a school bus are not transported by a school bus at all due to the failure of the bus to arrive;
4. A school district has been noncompliant with any other pupil transportation requirements under Chapter 3327. of the Ohio Revised Code. Example: ORC 3327.01 requires that students be delivered "not sooner than thirty minutes prior to the beginning of school."

"Out of compliance" is defined by reviewing whether any of the above occurrences happened on:

- » Five consecutive school days, or
- » Ten school days within a school year.

Any school day on which noncompliance occurs due to "inclement weather" is not counted toward the determination of noncompliance.

The Department collects and reviews the complaint information and the school district's response and makes a compliance determination. This determination must be made within no more than 45 days of receiving the complaint.

Corrective Action Plan and Funding Deductions

- » **First determination** that the district is out of compliance – no funding withheld; corrective action plan required. A district must submit a [corrective action plan](#) within one week of receiving the first notice of determination that it is out of compliance from the Department.
- » **Second, third and fourth determinations** that the district is out of compliance – 25% of daily state transportation funding is withheld; and
- » **Fifth and additional determinations** that the district is out of compliance – 100% of daily state transportation funding is withheld until the Department determines the district is no longer out of compliance.

Student Disbursements

The Department will calculate and disburse to the school where the affected student(s) are enrolled the per-student amount for those students. The school pays the calculated per-

QUICK LINKS

- » Overview of ORC 3327.021 Enforcement Process
- [Corrective Action Plan Guidance](#)
- Transportation Enforcement Process
- » [Improving Transportation Services for All Students](#)
- [Driver Training](#)
- » [Use of Vehicles Other Than School Buses \(Vans\) for Pupil Transportation](#)
- [Safety](#)
- [State Highway Patrol](#)
- » [Ohio Laws and Administrative Rules for Pupil Transportation](#)
- [Transportation Resources](#)
- [Transportation as a Related Service Update](#)
- » [FAQs](#)
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Transportation Enforcement Process

[Ohio law](#) requires the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to monitor each city, local and exempted village school district's compliance with the pupil transportation requirements outlined in Ohio Revised Code 3327.

Parent/Guardian or School Concern Process

1. Parents, guardians, community schools or nonpublic schools may submit concerns related to yellow school bus transportation services by completing a Transportation Concern Form (TCF) and submitting supporting documentation through the Department's [Transportation Enforcement Management \(TEM\) platform](#).
2. When the TCF is received, the Department will review it for completeness. If the form is incomplete, the sender will be notified via email and the Department will indicate what information is needed. Once the information has been updated, the sender will be required to resubmit through the TEM platform.
3. The Department is authorized to investigate certain issues related to yellow school bus transportation. For more information see [Overview of ORC 3327.021 Enforcement Process](#). If a student is involved in a payment in lieu of transportation process, see the [Payment in Lieu](#) page. The TCF will be closed if it involves an area the Department is not authorized to investigate, or if it involves the payment in lieu of transportation process.
4. The system will automatically notify the sender when the TCF is received. The Department will contact via email the school district within the next business day to inform the district an investigation will begin followed by outreach to involved parties in order to collect information.
5. Once the investigation is completed, finalized documents will be sent via email to all involved parties.
6. If there is an out of compliance determination with a funding deduction, a copy of the determination letter will be sent to the Office of Budget and School Funding.

Any person who represents the interest of a community school, chartered nonpublic school or students who are eligible for yellow school bus transportation services under Chapter 3327 of the Ohio Revised Code is eligible to submit a Transportation Concern Form (TCF) through the Department's Transportation Enforcement Management (TEM) platform.

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PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

- As in previous years, Districts and Community Schools providing transportation are required to report their board or governing body PILO resolution information for all students each school year.
- **New** reporting process for 2025-2026
- [Complete the PILO Resolution Report](#)
- A copy of the board of education or governing body resolution must be attached to the report.
- Submit the completed report to: PILOtransportation@education.ohio.gov.

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION REMINDERS

- [Payment in Lieu Flowchart](#)
- [2025-2026 Payment in Lieu of Transportation Amount](#)
- Reminders for the school district:
- Adopt a school board of education resolution within the required timeframes.
- The resolution should include the following:
 - Student's name.
 - Reason for impracticality declaration (analysis of six factors listed in ORC 3327.02(A)).
- Issue a letter to the impacted student/family, community school and/or nonpublic school that contains detailed reasons for the resolution.
- Inform the family of the right to accept PIL or reject PIL and request mediation.

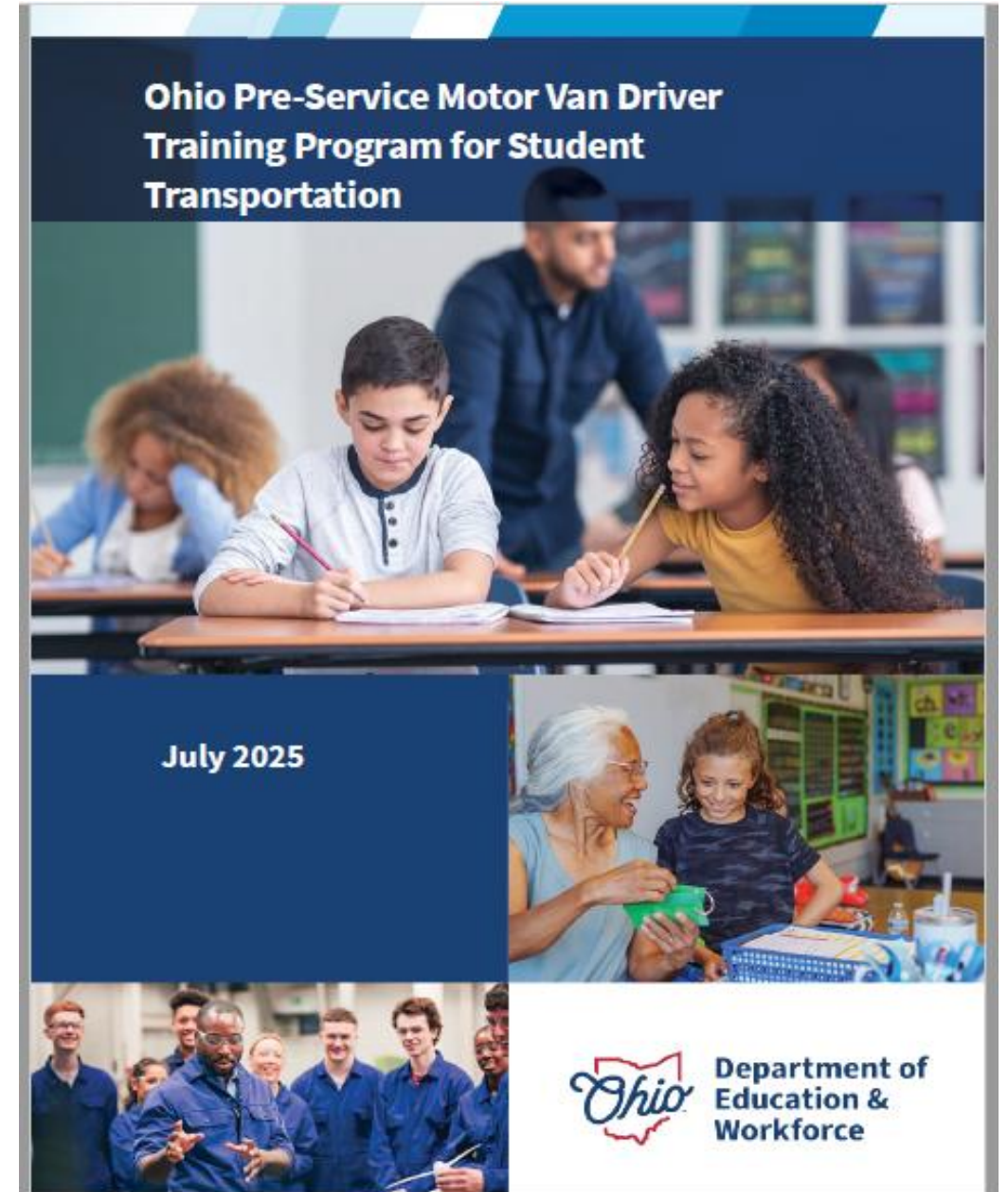
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION REMINDERS

- Send a form or contract to the student/family with a PIL offer for the student/family to accept or reject PIL.
- Since the district must inform the student/family about the resolution and issue a letter that contains detailed reasons for the resolution, it may satisfy this by including a copy of the resolution, with a detailed rationale for declaring the student impractical to transport, with the PIL offer.
- If mediation was requested, continue to provide transportation to the impacted students until the matter is resolved.

Motor Van Driver Training and Qualifications

The Ohio pre-service student transportation manual covers all materials required by law for transporting students in vehicles other than school buses. Any person transporting students must obtain proper certification before doing so.

Motor van driver training moved to an online platform beginning August 1, 2025.



Visit our website for updated resources and materials!

Course Registration Requirements:

- The district or employer will register the driver for the online course through the regional preservice instructor's office. **The driver's full legal name and email address are required for registration.**
- Once the registration is processed, the driver will receive an email from Schoology with an access link to the course.
- After logging in to Schoology for the first time, drivers will have **30 days** to complete the course. Some modules will have mini quizzes the driver must complete to proceed with course.
- **Failing an end-of-module quiz two times requires the preservice instructor to reset the class.** The class can be reset only once; after a second failed attempt, the online class is cancelled. **There are no refunds.** The driver will be required to attend an in person preservice class for an additional class fee.



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Home > Finance & Funding > School Transportation

Additional information can be found on the Department's website. To navigate, hover over **"Topics,"** select **"School Transportation."**

You will find a number of resources of the Department of Education and Workforce School Transportation page.

HOW DO I?

- » [Attend driver training?](#)
- » [Learn about school bus safety?](#)

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10/4/2025 [Regional School Bus Safety Road-e-o Competition](#)

10/20/2025 [National School Bus Safety Week, October 20-24, 2025](#)

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» [Driver Training and Resources](#)

- [Bus Drivers](#)
- [Van Drivers](#)
- [Pre-Service Training Information](#)
- [Transportation Reports, Due Dates, and Best Practices for Supervisors \(7-2025\)](#)
- [FMCSA Clearinghouse](#)
- [Rapback- State Board of Education](#)
- [OH|ID Account](#)
- [In-Service Training Topics](#)
- [School Bus Driver Safety Road-e-o](#)

» [Ohio Laws and Administrative Rules for Pupil Transportation](#)

- [July 2025 Pupil Transportation Rule Changes](#)

» [School Transportation Finance](#)

- [T-1 and T-2 Instructions](#)
- [Rider Capacity and Efficiency Targets](#)
- [Cost Analysis & Reimbursement Reports](#)
- [School District Square Miles](#)

» [Payment in Lieu of Transportation](#)

- [Student Transportation Contractors](#)
- [Use of 12 Passenger Vans for Student Transportation](#) (effective 6/30/2025)

TRANSPORTATION COMPLIANCE

- » [Compliance Monitoring System for School-Related Pupil Transportation](#)

Resources

» [The Governor's School Bus Safety Workgroup](#)

- [School Bus Driver Wellness Programming \(#2\)](#)
- [School Bus Safety Orientation for Parents, Guardians and Students \(#6\)](#)
- [School Bus Safety Audit Best Practice Checklist \(#13\)](#)
- [Commercial Carrier Policy Development Guidance \(#17\)](#)
- [2024 School Bus Safety Workgroup Recommendations Report](#)

» [State Highway Patrol](#)

- » [School Transportation FAQs](#)
- » [Transportation Resources](#)
- » [Pupil Transportation Office](#)
- » [Safe and Supportive Schools for Students and Staff](#)
- » [Firearms on School Transportation Vehicles and OAC 3301-83-20](#)
- » [Transportation resources for Chartered Nonpublic and Community Schools](#)
 - [Transportation Services for Chartered Nonpublic and Community School Students Handbook](#)
- » [Community School Reporting](#)
 - [Community School Transportation Funding](#)

QUESTIONS?

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