

Laws and Regulations

Definition of a School Bus (MN. Stat. 169.011 Subd. 71)

"School bus" means a motor vehicle used to transport pupils to or from a school defined in section 120A.22, or to or from school-related activities, by the school or a school district, or by someone under an agreement with the school or a school district. A school bus does not include a motor vehicle transporting children to or from school for which parents or guardians receive direct compensation from a school district, a motor coach operating under charter carrier authority, a transit bus providing services as defined in section 174.22, subdivision 7, or a vehicle otherwise qualifying as a Type III vehicle under paragraph (5), when the vehicle is properly registered and insured and being driven by an employee or agent of a school district for nonscheduled transportation. A school bus may be Type A, Type B, Type C, Type D, multifunction school activity bus, or Type III.



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Types of School Buses

	<p>TYPE A: A Type "A" school bus is a van conversion or bus constructed utilizing a cutaway front section vehicle with a left-side driver's door. This definition includes two classifications: Type A-I, with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) less than or equal to 14,500 pounds; and Type A-II, with a GVWR greater than 14,500 pounds and less than or equal to 21,500 pounds.</p>	 	<p>TYPE III: A "type III vehicle" is restricted to passenger vehicles and buses having a maximum manufacturer's rated seating capacity of ten or fewer people, including the driver, and a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. A "type III vehicle" must not be outwardly equipped and identified as a type A, B, C, or D school bus or type A, B, C, or D Head Start bus. A van or bus converted to a seating capacity of ten or fewer and placed in service on or after August 1, 1999, must have been originally manufactured to comply with the passenger safety standards.</p>
	<p>TYPE B: A Type "B" school bus is constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. This definition includes two classifications: Type B-I, with a GVWR less than or equal to 10,000 pounds, and Type B-II, with a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds.</p>		<p>Multifunction School Activity Bus: A multifunction school activity bus is a school bus that meets the definition of a definition of a multifunction school activity in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, section 571.3. A vehicle that meets the definition of a Type III vehicle is not a multifunction school activity bus.</p>
	<p>TYPE C: A "type C school bus" is constructed utilizing a chassis with a hood and front fender assembly. The entrance door is behind the front wheels. A "type C school bus" also includes a cutaway truck chassis or truck chassis with cab, with or without a left side door, and with a GVWR greater than 21,500 pounds</p>		
	<p>TYPE D: A Type "D" school bus is constructed utilizing a stripped chassis. The entrance door is ahead of the front wheels.</p>		



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Definition of a School Bus (MN. Stat. 169.011 Subd. 71)

Types of School Buses

In order to become a driver of a Type A, B, C or D school bus, an individual must take both written and driving tests, have a background check, drug testing, and submit to a physical every two years or as directed by your health care provider. There are different classes of licenses for these individuals. The classes of licenses, found in Minnesota Statute §171.02 are:

Vehicle Description	License Class	Additional Endorsements
Single unit vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less and designed to carry less than 15 passengers including the driver. May pull a towed unit with a GVWR or actual weight up to 10,000 lbs.	Class D	No Endorsement
All vehicles that an individual with a Class D license can drive and school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less and designed to carry 15 or more passengers including the driver. May pull a towed unit with a GVWR or actual weight up to 10,000 lbs.	Class C	Passenger Endorsement School Bus Endorsement
All vehicles that an individual with a Class D or Class C license can drive and school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or more and designed to carry more than 15 passengers. May pull a towed unit with a GVWR or actual weight up to 10,000 lbs.	Class B	Passenger Endorsement School Bus Endorsement
Any vehicle towing a unit of more than 10,000 pounds GVW or GVWR (whichever is greater) with a gross combination weight rating or actual weight (truck plus trailer) over 26,000 pounds.	Class A	Passenger Endorsement School Bus Endorsement

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Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Endorsement Requirements:

No person shall drive a school bus while transporting school children to or from school, or school-related trip or activity, without having a valid class A, B, or C driver's license, with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver's license, but not a school bus endorsement may drive a type III vehicle or a school bus, subject to the requirements of section 171.02, subdivisions 2, 2a, and 2b. (Type A Activities Bus)



Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Physical Qualifications/DOT Physical: An applicant for a school bus endorsement must be in good physical and mental health, able-bodied, and free from communicable disease. As evidence of physical fitness and mental alertness, the applicant must have a medical examination by a certified medical examiner authorized as provided by the Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, section 391.42. Details for medical examinations are found in 49 CFR 391.43. The medical examiner's certificate must comply



Each school bus driver is required to pass a medical examination at a maximum of every two years. The two-year re-examination period starts from the examination date of the most recent medical examiner's certificate submitted by the driver. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will send a notice a CDL driver's last known address 60 days prior to the expiration date of the medical examiner's certificate or waiver that is on file in the driver's record.



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Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

A CDL driver must submit the completed Commercial Driver License Medical Self-certification Form and their valid medical examiner's certificate to the DVS CDL Unit. This can be submitted using the online services on the DVS website, via mail, fax or submit in person at a location that accepts driver license applications. It must be received on or before the expiration of the last medical examiner's certificate that is on file with the department to keep CDL driving privileges valid



If a driver does not pass the medical examination or submit the medical examiner's certificate prior to the medical certificate expiration date, the commissioner of public safety will notify the driver that their CDL privileges are no longer valid. If the CDL is downgraded because of failure to submit the required medical examiner's certificate, the driver may reinstate their CDL and endorsements within one year by submitting a valid medical examiner's certificate. If downgraded or voluntarily surrendered for more than one year, the driver must retake the applicable CDL knowledge and road tests and reapply for the CDL.

FUN FACT: A driver operating a vehicle for a motor carrier with a GVWR or actual weight in excess of 10,000 lbs and ANY CDL school bus driver are **BOTH REQUIRED** to be medically qualified!

Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Waiver of Physical Qualifications. An individual who does not meet the physical qualifications for a CDL with a school bus endorsement may request a waiver from the commissioner of public safety. More information may be obtained from the DVS Website or by contacting the CDL Unit at (651) 297-5029.

Additional exams: The DPS commissioner may require additional medical examination of an applicant for a school bus endorsement or licensed driver with a school bus endorsement to determine competency. The examination form used by the physician to record the physical condition of the applicant must comply with the form prescribed in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, section 391.43, paragraph (f). The certificate of the examining physician must be in accordance with the certificate in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, section 391.43, paragraph (g).

The operator of a non-CDL required school bus must have in their possession the original or a copy of a current medical examiner's certificate or otherwise provide proof of being medically qualified.

Exception: An employee of a school or of a school district, who is not employed for the sole purpose of operating a type III vehicle, is exempt from the physical requirements



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Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)



Age: The driver shall be at least 18 years of age and have a qualifying driving record.

Driver Background Check: (MN Stat 171.321, 171.3215, 171.3216. MN Rule 7414.0400): Before issuing or renewing a driver's license with a school bus driver's endorsement, the DPS commissioner shall conduct a criminal history and driver's license records check of the applicant. If the applicant has resided in Minnesota for less than five years, the check must also include a national criminal history check.



Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)



The DPS commissioner shall not issue a new bus driver's endorsement and shall not renew an existing bus driver's endorsement if the applicant has been convicted of committing a disqualifying offense.

The DPS commissioner shall not issue a new bus driver's endorsement and shall not renew an existing bus driver's endorsement if, within the previous five years, the applicant has been convicted of committing a violation of section 169A.20, or a similar statute or ordinance from another state, a gross misdemeanor, or if the applicant's driver's license has been revoked under section 169A.52, or if, within the previous three years, the applicant has been convicted of four moving violations. An applicant who has been convicted of violating section 169A.20 or a similar statute or ordinance from another state, or who has had a license revocation under section 169A.52 within the previous ten years must show proof of successful completion of an alcohol or controlled substance treatment program in order to receive a school bus driver's endorsement.

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Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)



For the first offense, proof of completion is required only if treatment was ordered as part of a chemical use assessment. A school district or contractor that employs a nonresident school bus driver must conduct a background check of the employee's driving record and criminal history in both Minnesota and the driver's state of residence.

The DPS commissioner may cancel a school bus driver's endorsement if it is determined that the person has been convicted of a gross misdemeanor that shows the person represents a risk to public safety, or has been convicted of a series of violations that shows the person represents a risk to public safety.

Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Convictions for disqualifying offenses, gross misdemeanors, a fourth moving violation within the previous three years, or violations of section 169A.20, or a similar statute or ordinance in another state, must be reported to the department of public safety. Other disqualifying offense includes any felony offense, any misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony violation of chapter 152, or any violation under section 609.3451, 609.746, subdivision 1, or 617.23, or while driving, operating, or being in physical control of a school bus or Head Start bus, in violation of section 169A.20, or a similar statute or ordinance from another state, or a fourth moving violation in the previous three years.



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Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)



Temporary School Bus Endorsement: An applicant for a school bus endorsement who has not resided in Minnesota for five consecutive years may be eligible for a temporary endorsement pending the FBI background check. (MN. Stat.171.321 Subd. 3 (b))

Testing/Renewal: The test or examination required for an initial school bus driver's endorsement on a Minnesota driver's license includes a knowledge test and a road test. School bus drivers are re-tested for current knowledge of school bus laws every four years when renewing their driver's license. The renewal knowledge test is also required when the driver upgrades to a higher-class license. The knowledge test is based on driver's license laws and rules relating to school bus operation, and a general knowledge of the operation of school buses, including knowledge of the equipment, devices and laws specific to school buses.



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Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Training and Competencies: No person shall drive a Type A, B, C, or D school bus to transport school children to or from school or a school-related trip or activity, without having demonstrated sufficient skills and knowledge to transport students, in a safe and legal manner. A bus driver must have training or experience that allows the driver to meet at least the following competencies:

1. Safely operate the type of school bus the driver will be driving.
2. Understand student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities.
3. Encourage orderly conduct of students on the bus and handle incidents of misconduct appropriately.
4. Know and understand relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies.
5. Handle emergency situations.
6. Safely load and unload students.



Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Annual Evaluation: A school district, nonpublic school or private contractor also shall provide in-service training annually (380 calendar days), to each school bus driver. A school district, nonpublic school, or private contractor shall annually verify the validity of the driver's license of each employee who regularly transports students for the district in a type A school bus, a type B school bus, a type C school bus, or type D school bus, or regularly transports students for the district in a type III vehicle with the National Driver Register or with the Department of Public Safety.



Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Driver Disclosure of Moving Violation Convictions: (Minnesota Statute 171.168): Department notice: Each person who operates a commercial motor vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license issued by this state, and who is convicted of a criminal offense; of a serious traffic violation, as defined in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, section 383.5; or of violating any other state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, in any type of motor vehicle in another state or jurisdiction, shall notify the department's Division of Driver and Vehicle Services of the conviction. The person shall notify the division within 30 days after the date that the person was convicted.

Department notice information: Notification to the division must be made in writing and contain the following information:

Driver's full name, driver's license number, date of conviction, specific criminal or other offense; serious traffic violation, as defined in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, section 383.5; and any other violation of state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, for which the person was convicted and any suspension, revocation, or cancellation of certain driving privileges that resulted from the conviction.

An indication whether the violation was in a commercial motor vehicle, Location of the offense and driver's signature.



Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)

Employer notice: Each person who operates a commercial motor vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license issued by this state, and who is convicted of violating, in any type of motor vehicle, a Minnesota state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, shall notify their employer of the conviction. The person shall notify their employer within 30 days after the date that the person was convicted. If the person is not currently employed, the person shall notify the division according to subdivision 1.

A driver of an activities school bus or Type III school bus who sustains a conviction of; an alcohol related driving violation, a disqualifying offense as previously defined, or moving offense while employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, shall report the conviction to the employer within 10 days of the date of the conviction (MN Statute 171.02 subd 2a and 2b).

REMINDER: The Minnesota State Patrol conducts random driver license record checks and verifications of school bus drivers on an annual basis. Failure to disclose a moving violation conviction to your employer could result in a citation being issued to you, the driver.



Laws and Regulations

Driver's License Requirements (MN. Stat. 171.321, 171.3215, & MN. Rule 7414)



Driver Disclosure of Suspension, Revocation, Disqualification and Cancellation of License to Employer:

(MN Stat. 171.169 or 171.02 subd 2a and 2b): A driver whose license is suspended, revoked, canceled, or disqualified by Minnesota, another state, or another jurisdiction must notify their employer in writing of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. They must notify the employer before the end of the business day immediately following the day the driver received notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification.

Reminder: The Minnesota State Patrol conducts random driver license record checks and verifications of school bus drivers on an annual basis. Failure to disclose ANY driver license status change as noted above, to your employer, could result in a citation being issued to you, the driver.



Laws and Regulations

Alcohol Related Offences: (MN. Stat. 169A)

Alcohol-related School Bus or Head Start Bus Driving: (MN Stat 169A.31): It is a crime for any person to drive, operate, or be in physical control of any class of school bus or Head Start bus within this State, when there is physical evidence present in the person's body, consumption of any alcohol.

Gross misdemeanor alcohol-related school bus or Head Start bus driving. A person who violates subdivision 1 is guilty of gross misdemeanor alcohol-related school bus or Head Start bus driving if:

1. The violation occurs while a child under the age of 16 is in the vehicle, if the child is more than 36 months younger than the violator; or
2. The violation occurs within ten years of a qualified prior impaired driving incident.



Misdemeanor alcohol-related school bus or Head Start bus driving: Except as provided in subdivision 2, a person who violates subdivision 1, is guilty of misdemeanor alcohol-related school bus or Head Start bus.

Laws and Regulations

Alcohol Related Offences: (MN. Stat. 169A.20)

Driving While Impaired: It is a crime for any person to drive, operate, or be in physical control of any motor vehicle, as defined in section 169A.03, subdivision 15, except for motorboats in operation and off-road recreational vehicles, within this state or on any boundary water of this state when:

1. The person is under the influence of alcohol.

2. The person is under the influence of a controlled substance.

3. The person is under the influence of an intoxicating substance and the person knows or has reason to know that the substance has the capacity to cause impairment.

4. The person is under the influence of a combination of any two or more of the elements named in clauses (1) to (3).

Laws and Regulations

Alcohol Related Offences: (MN. Stat. 169A.20)

Driving While Impaired Continued:

NOTE: The per se limit of either of .08 or .04 is based on the type of vehicle being driven not based on the class of license the violator holds.

5. The person's alcohol concentration at the time, or as measured within two hours of the time, of driving, operating, or being in physical control of the motor vehicle is 0.08 or more.

6. The vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle and the person's alcohol concentration at the time, or as measured within two hours of the time, of driving, operating, or being in physical control of the commercial motor vehicle is 0.04 or more

7. The person's body contains any amount of a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or II, or its metabolite, other than marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinols.

Laws and Regulations

Alcohol Related Offences: (MN. Stat. 169A.51)

Implied Consent Law: (MN Stat.169A.51): Any person who drives, operates, or is in physical control of a motor vehicle within this state or on any boundary water of this state consents, subject to the provisions of sections 169A.50 to 169A.53 (implied consent law), and section 169A.20 (driving while impaired), to a chemical test of that person's blood, breath, or urine for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol, a controlled substance or its metabolite, or an intoxicating substance. The test must be administered at the direction of a peace officer.



Important Reminders:

*** Following a conviction of a DUI or an Implied Consent Revocation your **CDL will be disqualified for 1 year** and your **bus endorsement will be cancelled for 5 years**

***There is **NO** allowable amount of alcohol a CDL driver can have in their system while operating a CMV! **ZERO TOLERANCE!**

Laws and Regulations

Regulations - Contract Provisions: (MN. Stat. 169.449)

Regulations - Contract Provisions: The commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety has the authority to adopt and enforce rules governing student transportation. Violations of the rules concerning the operation of school buses is a misdemeanor. These rules are found in MN Rules, Chapter 7470.

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

General Operating Rules: When transportation is provided, the scheduling of routes manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children, and any other matter relating thereto shall be within the sole discretion and control and management of the board. (MN. Stat. 123B.86 & 123B.88)

A. The school board of the district may adopt such operating rules as deemed necessary to meet local conditions and needs, providing they do not conflict with state laws and rules.

B. Only pupils assigned to the school bus by the school board or designated administrative officer of the school district shall be transported at district expense.



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

C. The authorized person shall see that no materials, including guns, loaded or unloaded, gasoline cans, empty or full, animals except service dogs accompanying persons with disabilities, or any other object of dangerous or objectionable nature, are transported in the school bus when pupils are being transported.

D. No pupils may be in the bus while the fuel tank is being filled. On leaving the vehicle when pupils are in the bus, the driver shall stop the motor, remove the ignition key, set the brake and otherwise render the bus immobile

E. The driver of a school or Head Start bus shall keep the aisle and emergency exit clear and unobstructed at all times, when children are being transported.

F. School buses may pull a trailer, as defined by 169.447 subd. 5, only when traveling to or from co-curricular or extracurricular trips, but not when transporting children to and from school.

G. Pupils are not to be evicted from the bus along the route for a breach of discipline. All breaches of discipline must be reported by the bus driver to the authorized person.



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

H. The entrance door must be closed at all times when transporting pupils and the bus is in motion.

I. No Person shall stand in the school bus or Head Start bus when the bus is in motion.

J. Bring the bus to full stop and disengage gears by shifting into neutral or park before **LOADING** or **UNLOADING** pupils

K. When children are getting off a school bus or Head Start bus, the driver shall visually determine that they are a safe distance from the bus before moving the bus.



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

L. All buses must load and unload in the right lane of the roadway, at pupil stops on bus routes approved by the authorized person. Loading and unloading within an intersection is prohibited. A school bus driver is prohibited from loading or unloading passengers in a designated right-turn lane or in a lane immediately adjacent to a designated right-turn lane unless: * A school bus stop designated by the district transportation safety director is located in the right-turn lane;

- * The driver stops the bus at the extreme right side of the right-turn lane; and
- * The driver activates the pre-warning flashing amber signals, flashing red signals, and stop-signal arm, unless the school board or its designee, based on safety considerations, provides written direction to the driver not to do so.
- * After loading or unloading passengers, the school bus driver may re-enter the right-hand lane of traffic without turning right. The school bus must indicate the intent to enter the right-hand lane of traffic by activating a flashing left turn signal.



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General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

Following Distance (MN. Rule 7470.1100)

School buses shall maintain at least a 50-foot interval when following another bus entering or leaving the school ground, and at least 500 feet when traveling on the highway, in accordance with Minnesota Statute, section 169.18, Subd. 8, paragraph (b).

***REMEMBER: When driving in a parking lot or on school grounds = 50ft
When driving ANYWHERE ELSE = 500ft***

Seat Belts (MN Stat. 169.447, 169.685, 49 CFR 392.16)

All school bus drivers must properly wear their seat belt whenever the bus is in motion. If passenger seatbelts are equipped, they must be worn. Child restraints are required in all vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less.

Lights to be Displayed (MN. Stat. 169.48)

The driver shall display lighted headlamps, tail lamps and clearance lamps during daylight hours when transporting children. Drivers operating a bus that is equipped with daytime running lights need to ensure the headlamp switch is turned on, allowing clearance and taillights to illuminate.



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

Speed Limits (MN. Stat. 169.14 (all drivers, including school bus))

Duty to drive with due care. No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions. Every driver is responsible for becoming and remaining aware of the actual and potential hazards then existing on the highway and must use due care in operating a vehicle. In every event speed shall be so restricted as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

The speed limit on two-lane highways with a posted speed limit of 55 mph or higher is increased by 10 mph when the driver is lawfully passing another vehicle in the same direction. Upon completion of the pass the speed limit reverts to the posted speed.

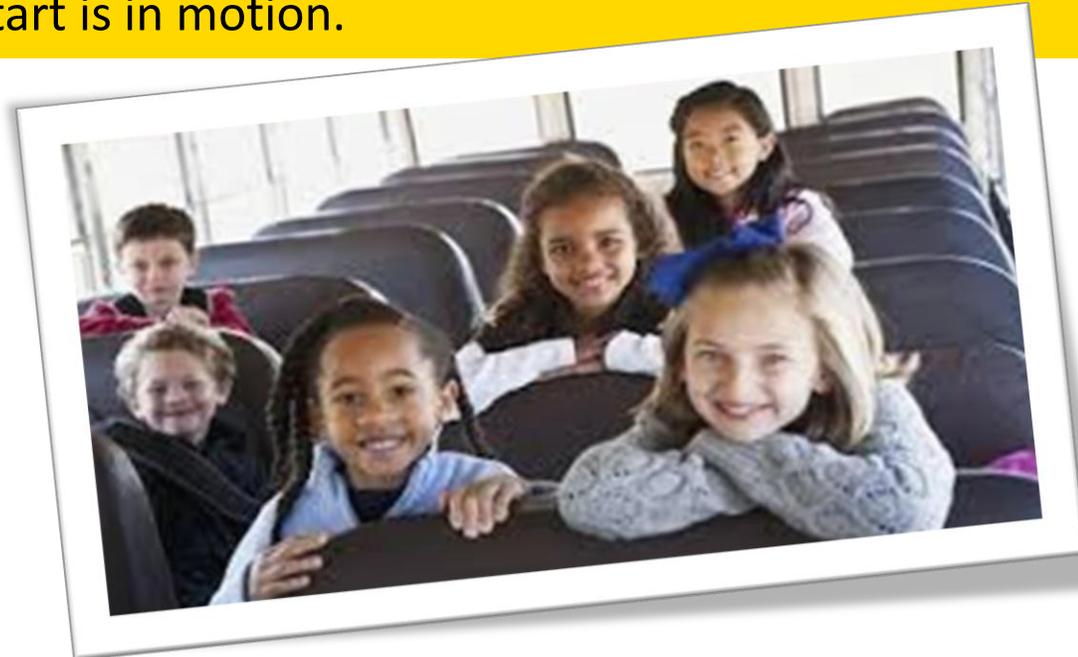


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General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

Passenger Capacity (MN. Stat. 169.447)

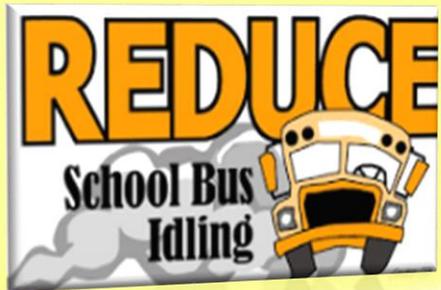
The number of pupils or other authorized passengers transported in a school bus or Head Start bus must not be more than the number of pupils or passengers that can be fully seated. Seating capacity must be adjusted according to each passenger's individual physical size, but not more than the manufacturer's rated capacity. No person shall stand when the school bus or Head Start is in motion.



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General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470) Bus Idling

Whenever the bus is idling, the driver must stay with the bus. Idling buses must be outside any building and away from fuel pumps. Engines should be shut off when students are present and loading. As a courtesy to other drivers, buses should not idle when another bus is within 10 feet. Drivers should be mindful of school air intakes and avoid bus exhaust from drifting into schools. In general, a 5-minute maximum rule should be in place for idling buses. Follow all relevant district/company policy on idling and ask a supervisor if you have questions.



Vision's Company policy is that no vehicle will idle in excess of 3 minutes while not in transit. *Do your part, shut it DOWN!*
Parameters for idling as follows:

- ❖ Above 20 degrees F 2–3minute maximum idle time
- ❖ Below 20 degrees F 10-minute maximum idle time



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General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

ANNUAL SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

The inspection certificate is placed on the lower front corner driver's side of the windshield. The decal is punched in the month the bus was inspected and expires 12 months from the month and year it was placed on the windshield.



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General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

REJECTION DECAL (Out of service)

The rejection or out-of-service decal, is placed on the windshield in the vicinity of the annual inspection decal. This indicates the bus failed the inspection and cannot be operated until repaired.

The bus may be operated after repair is certified by the owner or his designee by signing the copy of the School Bus Inspection Deficiency Report (PS 18073) and carrying that report in the first aid kit.

The sticker shall be removed only upon authorization from a CVI II or trooper who has determined that the defects that caused the rejection have been corrected.



It is
unlawful to
transport school
pupils in this vehicle
unless equipment defects
have been corrected and
corrections certified by the
Owner/Designee's signature upon the
School Bus Inspection Report which
must be carried in the First Aid Kit in this vehicle.

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General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

INTERIM STICKERS

The interim sticker is issued to school bus dealers for placement on new school buses into Minnesota. The dealer must certify to the State of Minnesota by means of a pre-registration certificate, completed before plates are issued, that the bus meets Minnesota Minimum School Bus Standards. The sticker is valid until the next annual inspection by the State for the owner of the bus. The issue date on the back or inside of the sticker should never be more than 13 months old.



OUTSIDE VIEW



INSIDE VIEW

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School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

Loading and unloading stops are established by the school board. They SHALL NOT be changed at the driver's discretion. Only school officials can authorize changes in student stops.

A school bus driver shall load or unload pupils only where the view is unobstructed to the motorist for 500 feet in either direction on a roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or greater and where the view is unobstructed for at least 100 feet where the speed limit is less than 35 mph.

A driver of a school bus shall activate the pre-warning flashing amber signals of the bus before stopping to load or unload school children. The driver shall activate and continuously operate the amber signals for a distance of at least 100 feet before stopping in a speed zone of 35 mph or less and at least 300 feet before stopping in a speed zone of more than 35 mph. On stopping for this purpose, the driver shall extend the stop-arm system and activate the flashing red signals. The driver shall not retract the stop-arm system nor extinguish the flashing red signals until loading or unloading is completed, students are seated, and children who must cross the roadway are safely across.



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School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

A school bus driver is prohibited from loading or unloading passengers in a designated right-turn lane or in a lane immediately adjacent to a designated right-turn lane unless:

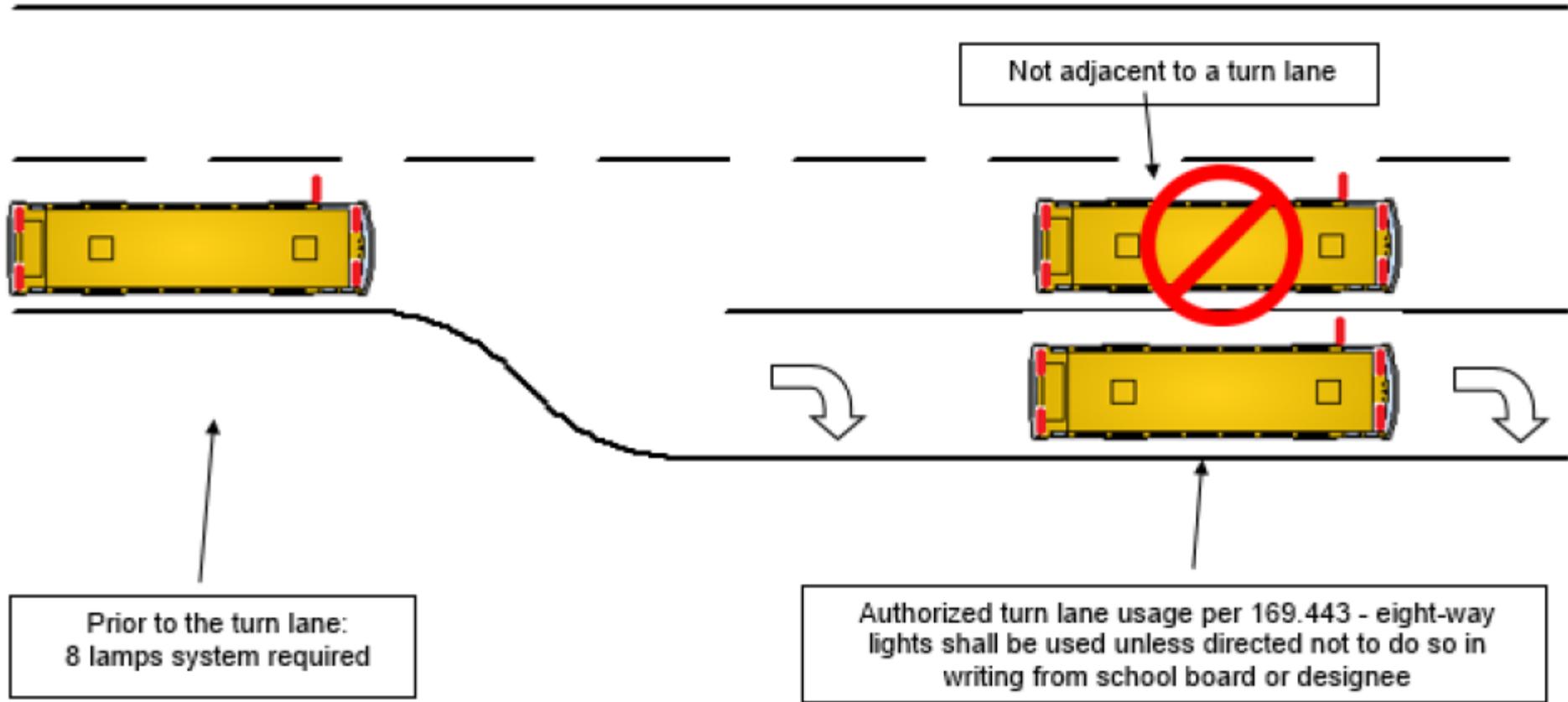
1. A school bus stop designated by the district transportation safety director is located in the right-turn lane;

2. The driver stops the bus at the extreme right side of the right-turn lane; and

3. The driver activates the prewarning flashing amber signals, flashing red signals, and stop-signal arm, unless the school board or its designee, based on safety considerations, provides written direction to the driver not to do so.

Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

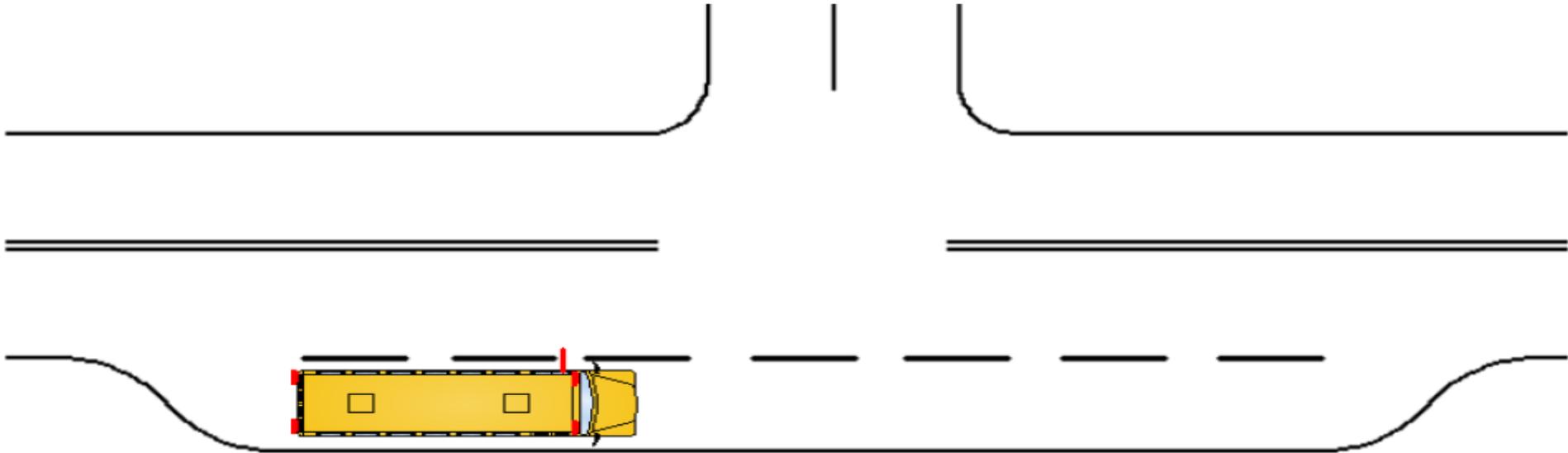


Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

School Bus Stop Procedures using a bypass lane:

All buses must load and unload in the right lane of the roadway, at pupil stops on bus routes approved by the authorized person.



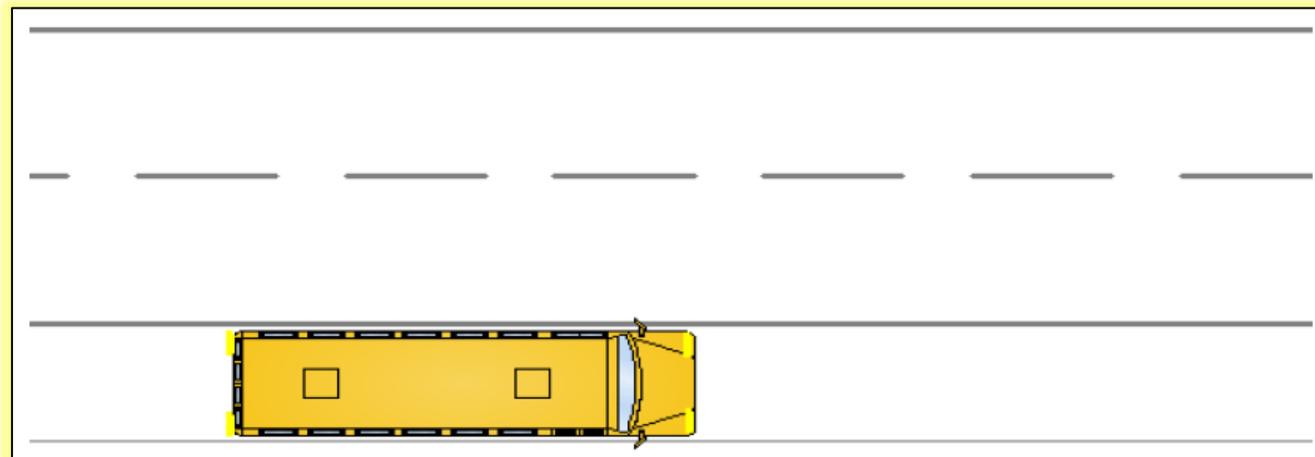
Because the school bus is in a traffic lane the 8 way lamp systems must be used.

Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

School Bus Stops – Shoulder Use: (MN Stat 169.443 subd 3)

Only permitted when loading and unloading students at designated school bus stops where students are not required to cross the street or highway, while the bus is completely off the traveled portion of a roadway that has adequate shoulders. The driver shall drive the bus completely off the traveled portion of this roadway before loading or unloading people. A school bus stop is designated under this clause if the transportation director of the school district in which the bus stop is located, in consultation with the road authority, certifies the integrity of the shoulder and the safety of the location for loading and unloading people. Each designated school bus stop must be documented and approved by the school board

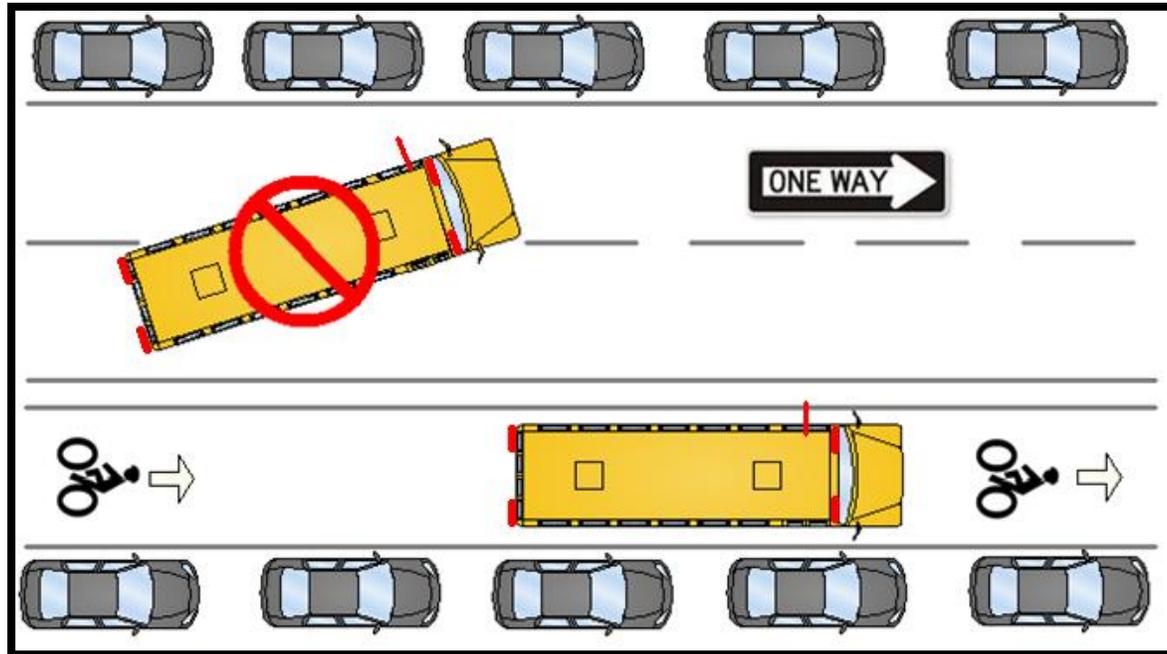


Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

Use of Bike Lane:

Whenever a bicycle lane has been established on a roadway, any person operating a motor vehicle on such roadway shall not drive in the bicycle lane except to perform parking maneuvers in order to park where parking is permitted, to enter or leave the highway, to prepare for a turn as provided in section 169.19, subdivision 1, or to stop a school bus for the purpose of receiving or discharging any person provided the school bus is equipped and identified as provided in sections 169.441 and 169.442, subdivision 1, and the flashing red signals are activated and stop-signal arm is extended.



Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

After loading or unloading passengers, the school bus driver may re-enter the right-hand lane of traffic without turning right. The school bus must indicate the intent to enter the right-hand lane of traffic by activating a flashing left turn signal.

Where school children must cross a roadway before getting on or after getting off the school bus, the driver of the school bus or a school bus patrol may supervise the crossing, using the standard school patrol flag or signal as approved and prescribed by the commissioner of public safety. Before moving the school bus, the driver of the bus shall visually determine that all children have crossed the roadway and that those who are to do so have boarded the school bus.

When children are getting off a school bus or Head Start bus, the driver shall visually determine that they are a safe distance from the bus before moving the bus.



Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)



The driver shall be responsible for safely delivering the pupils, who must cross the street or highway, to the left side of the road by one of the following methods:

A. The pupil shall pass around in front of the vehicle and cross the road only upon receiving word from the driver.

B. The pupil shall pass around in front of the bus and be conducted across the road by the school bus patrol or the bus monitor; or the driver shall personally conduct the pupils across the road. (If the driver escorts the pupil, the motor must be stopped, ignition key removed, brakes set, and vehicle otherwise rendered immobile.)



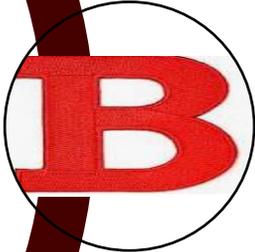
Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

The driver shall not use the school bus pre-amber warning or red signals per MN. Stat. 169.443 Subd.3;



In special school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the traveled portion of the roadway and where no other motor vehicle is moving, or is likely to be moving, within 20 feet of the bus.



When directed not to do so, in writing, by the local school board.

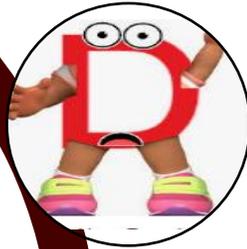


When a school bus is being used on a street or highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of school children to or from school, or a school-approved activity, except as provided in subdivision 8.

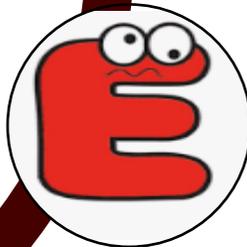
Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

The driver shall not use the school bus pre-amber warning or red signals continued:



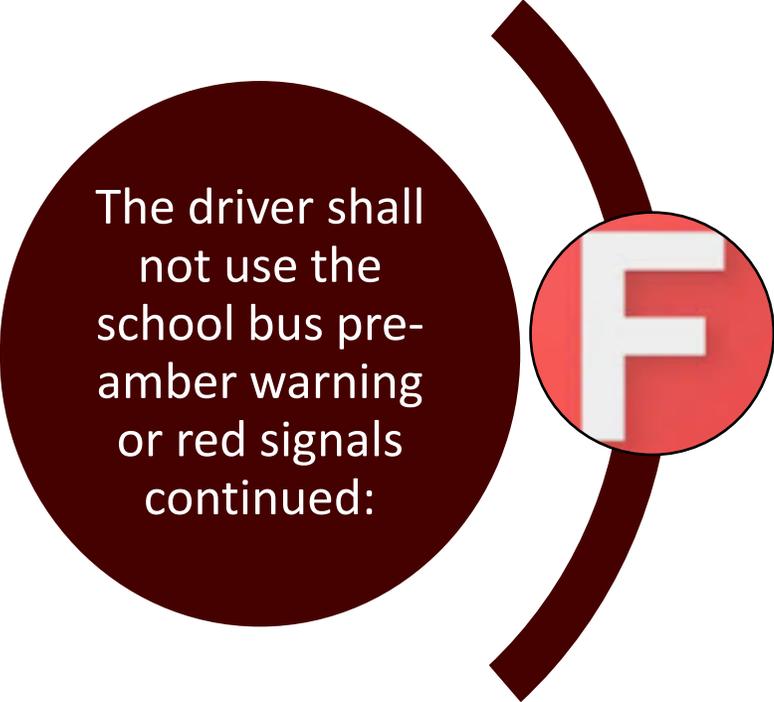
At railroad grade crossings.



When operating the bus under section 169.4475, and.

Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)



The driver shall not use the school bus pre-amber warning or red signals continued:

When loading and unloading students at designated school bus stops, not required to cross the street or highway and the bus is completely off the traveled portion of a roadway that has adequate shoulders. The driver shall pull the bus completely off the traveled portion of the roadway before loading or unloading students. A school bus stop is designated under this clause, if the transportation director of the school district in which the bus stop is located, and in consultation with the road authority, certifies the integrity of the shoulder, and the location for loading and unloading students, is safe. Each designated school bus stop must be documented and approved by the school board.

Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

Stop Arm Violations: (MN. Stat. 169.444)

Minnesota state law requires motorists to stop at least 20 feet away from a bus displaying flashing red lights and an extended stop-arm. The prescribed penalties for violating this law are quite severe. Therefore, it is important that the school bus driver use the eight-light system when required to do so and ascertain that the system is activated in accordance with the law. This assures that the motorists view consistent, uniform use of the system and can therefore comply without guessing as to what is going to happen. If a school bus driver deviates from required procedures it will not be possible to prosecute stop-arm violations.

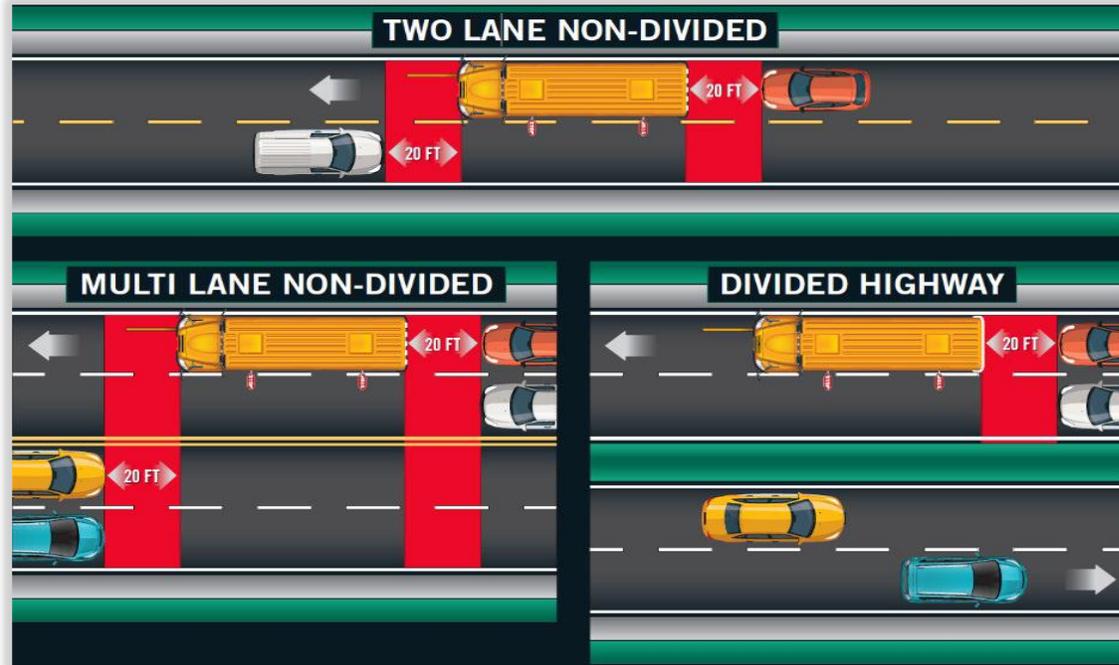


Laws and Regulations

School Bus Stops/Loading and Unloading (MN. Stat. 123B.88, 169.443, MN Rule 7470.1100)

Stop Arm Violations Continued:

Exception: A person driving a vehicle on a street or highway with separated roadways is not required to stop the vehicle when approaching or meeting a school bus that is on a different roadway.



A full report on each observed incident should be prepared and forwarded to law enforcement according to the company or district policy. There is a presumption by law that the system was working properly if there is testimony that the system was inspected within the past 12 hours prior to the infraction. A pre-trip inspection sheet may be offered for evidence.

The school bus driver must remember that the safety of the student is first. Gathering information for prosecution is secondary. Attempt to gather as much information on the violator as possible, such as vehicle description and license number. This much will allow prosecution of the owner. Further information as to the driver's sex, age, color, clothing will assist in prosecution of the actual driver. Make an initial report to law enforcement as soon as possible.

Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

Railroad Crossings:

School buses are required to stop at all railroad crossings unless an "Exempt" sign is posted. The stop is required whether or not there are students aboard the bus. The eight- light system shall NOT be used. Make sure the Master Switch is off. There are two ways that a school bus driver can warn traffic behind when preparing to stop for a railroad crossing. The school bus driver should use both the four-way hazard lights and brake lights. State law requires the driver to activate the four-way hazard warning lights not less than 100 feet from the nearest rail and stop not less than 15 feet no more than 50 feet from the nearest rail. Required procedures for checking and crossing railroad tracks include:

1. Be sure master switch is off (if equipped).
2. Make sure passengers are quiet, use noise suppression switch if equipped.
3. FULLY open the service door and driver's window.
4. Listen and look in both directions.
5. Check in both directions again.



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)



Railroad crossings continued:

Before crossing the tracks, the driver must close the service door. It is recommended policy that a driver should completely cross the tracks without shifting gears. After the crossing is completed, the driver will have to turn off the four-way hazard lights. The driver must ensure there is ample room, minimum of 10 feet, on the other side of the tracks for the rear end of the bus to clear before proceeding across



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)



Inspection (MN. Stat. 169.451) ;No school bus shall be registered for the first time in this state unless it has been inspected and certified that it conforms to all minimum standards and laws for buses.

Every school bus shall be inspected annually by the Minnesota State Patrol.

No school bus shall be driven without displaying a current valid inspection certificate.

Other inspections: In addition to the annual inspections and re-inspections scheduled for the purpose of verifying that deficiencies have been corrected, a trooper or CVI may conduct an unannounced inspection of any school bus and driver. This subpart shall not be construed to limit the right or duty of any law enforcement officer to inspect any vehicle upon reasonable cause.

Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

School Bus Daily Pre-Trip Safety Inspection (MN. Rule 7470.1300)

No school bus shall be driven unless the driver or other designated person has inspected the vehicle to ensure that at a minimum, the following parts and accessories are in good working order. Service brakes, including trailer brake connections; parking (hand) brakes, steering mechanism, lighting devices and reflectors, tires, fluid levels, horn, windshield wiper or wipers, rear-vision and crossover mirrors including their proper adjustment, eight- light system, and stop arm.

A copy of the current daily pre-trip inspection report must be carried in the bus. Local pre-trip inspection policies may vary widely. Every driver should be familiar with the policy of their employer. See Appendix B.

Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

Minimum Standards for Minnesota School Buses

Standards pertinent to Minnesota are above and beyond the national minimums and are found in MN.

The construction, design, equipment, and color of Types A, B, C, and D school buses used for the transportation of school children shall meet the requirements of the "bus chassis standards" and "bus body standards" in the current revised edition of the "National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures" adopted by the National Conference on School Transportation and published by the National Safety Council.

The construction, design, and equipment of Types A, B, C, and D school buses used for the transportation of students with disabilities also shall meet the requirements of the "specially equipped school bus standards" in the "National School Transportation Specifications and Procedure." The "bus chassis standards," "bus body standards," and "specially equipped school bus standards" sections of the "National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures" are incorporated by reference in this chapter.

Standards for School Buses are available to each school district. Information can be obtained from:

Minnesota State Patrol



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

Cell Phone Usage (MN Statute 169.443 Sub 9)

A school bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone for personal reasons, whether handheld or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion.



Use of Wireless Communication Device (MN Statute 169.475; 49 CFR 392.80; 392.82)

A school bus driver may not operate a school bus while using a wireless communications device to:

- A. Compose, read, or send an electronic message;
- B. Engage in a cellular phone call, including initiating a call, talking or listening and participating in video calling; and
- C. Access the following types of content stored on the device: video content, audio content, images, games or software applications.

Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

Exceptions:

1. Used solely in a voice-activated or hands-free mode to initiate or participate in a cellular phone call or to initiate, compose, send or listen to an electronic message;

* This exception does not apply to accessing non-navigation video content, engaging in video calling, engaging in live-streaming, accessing gaming data, or reading electronic messages.

2. To view or operate a global position system or navigation system in a manner that does not require the driver to type while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic, provided that the person does not hold the device with one or both hands;

3. To listen to audio-based content in a manner that does not require the driver to scroll or type while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic, provided that the person does not hold the device with one or both hands;

4. To obtain emergency assistance to; report a traffic accident, medical emergency, serious traffic hazard, or prevent a crime about to be committed;

5. In the reasonable belief that a person's life is in immediate danger; or

6. In an authorized emergency vehicle while in the performance of official duties.

The above exceptions are official language; however, Vision's policy is zero tolerance. Always pull over, place vehicle in neutral, activate the parking brake, and remove yourself from the driver seat before utilizing your cell phone.



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)

The Code of Federal Regulations restrict the use of hand-held mobile telephones and prohibits texting by drivers of CMV's. New driver disqualification sanctions have been implemented for drivers of CMVs who fail to comply with these federal restrictions. This includes those who have multiple convictions for violating a state or local law, or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control that restricts the use of hand-held mobile telephones or prohibit texting. Additionally, motor carriers are prohibited from requiring or allowing drivers to use hand-held mobile phones or engage in texting while driving.

The use of hand-held mobile telephones means, “using at least one hand to hold a mobile telephone to conduct a voice communication”; “dialing a mobile telephone by pressing more than a single button”; or “moving from a seated driving position while restrained by a seat belt to reach for a mobile telephone”. If you choose to use a mobile phone while operating a CMV, you may only use a hands-free mobile phone that is located close to you and that can be operated in compliance with the rule to conduct a voice communication.



Laws and Regulations

General Operating Rules: (MN. Stat. 169.447, 169.443, 123B.91, 123B.86 & MN. Rule 7470)



Texting means manually entering text into, or reading text from, an electronic device. This includes, but is not limited to, short message service, e-mailing, instant messaging, a command or request to access a World Wide Web page, or engaging in any other form of electronic text retrieval or entry, for present or future communication.

Electronic device includes, but is not limited to, a cellular telephone; personal digital assistant; pager; computer; or any other device used to enter, write, send, receive, or read text.

Your CDL will be disqualified after two or more convictions of any state law on hand-held mobile telephone use or texting while operating a CMV.

*****Disqualification is 60 days for the second offense within three years and 120 days for three or more offenses within three years.** In addition, the first and each subsequent violation of such a prohibition are subject to civil penalties imposed on such drivers, in an amount up to \$2,750. Employers may also be subject to civil penalties in an amount up to \$11,000. There is an emergency exception that allows the use of a handheld phone to call or text if necessary for you to communicate with law enforcement officials or other emergency services.