



FIVE FAST FACTS

School transportation regulations

School buses are the safest mode of transportation for schoolchildren, partially due to the regulations that govern the operations and equipment used. These regulations span federal, state and local authority.



1. Requirements to provide bus transportation are established in Ohio law.

The Ohio General Assembly determines the basic requirements for transportation. This includes identifying which students must be transported and how transportation is funded. The legislature also assigns the authority for general operations to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the authority for vehicle standards to the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS). While most operations are regulated by ODE and ODPS, some laws determine more specific controls, such as driver criminal background checks and insurance requirements.

2. Day-to-day operations are governed by ODE rules.

These rules include routing and bus stops, student management, driver training requirements and safety procedures. The authority for these rules comes from Ohio Revised Code and compliance is mandatory.

3. Basic school bus design standards are determined by the federal government.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration oversees federal standards that manage safety requirements, color and crash-worthiness of any school bus sold in the U.S. Manufacturers have to certify their compliance with these standards before selling a bus, and owners are required to maintain the buses so that compliance is continued.

FAST FIVE FACTS ON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

RESOURCES

RC 4511.76

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4511.76>

RC 3327

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3327>

OAC 3301-83

<http://codes.ohio.gov/OAC/3301-83>

Ohio Pupil Transportation Operation
and Safety Rules

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/28959>

Ohio School Bus Construction
Standards

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/89556>

Ohio School Bus Construction
Options

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/28451>

4. Ohio has additional school bus design standards that exceed federal requirements.

Features can be added to school buses if states determine they will increase the safety of the vehicles. Ohio has its own set of standards that are part of the Ohio Administrative Code, administered by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP). These standards include features like fire-retardant seat covers, additional strength in the floor, two-way radios, special warning lights and traffic safety devices. Districts also may add products to their school buses if OSHP has approved the devices.

5. Ohio's school bus driver qualifications are among the most stringent in the country.

All school bus drivers are required to have commercial driver licenses with school bus and passenger endorsements. In Ohio, drivers also are required to complete a state training course that certifies them to drive school buses. This course uses classroom training and behind-the-wheel training to prepare drivers to operate Ohio buses safely and manage students. Drivers are required to renew this training every six years. Ohio school bus drivers also are subject to criminal background checks, driving-record reviews and drug and alcohol testing and are required to participate in annual training refreshers.



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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

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