

CDE CDL STUDY GUIDE 2024-25

10.3.2 – Evacuation Procedures

Mandatory Evacuations. The driver must evacuate the bus when: The bus is on fire or there is a threat of a fire. The bus is stalled on or adjacent to a railroad-highway crossing. The position of the bus may change and increase the danger. There is an imminent danger of collision. There is a need to quickly evacuate because of a hazardous materials spill.

9.0 Pre-trip/Post-trip Vehicle Inspections 9.1 Each school transportation vehicle shall have a daily pre-trip and post-trip inspection performed and documented by the school transportation vehicle operator or other transportation employee authorized by the school district, charter school, or service provider. A daily pre-trip inspection shall be completed prior to a vehicle being placed in service. A daily post-trip inspection shall be completed at the end of daily operation of each vehicle.

Use the Right Fire Extinguisher

The B:C type fire extinguisher is designed to work on electrical fires and burning liquids. The A:B:C type is designed to work on burning wood, paper, and cloth as well.

School Bus Commercial Operator Requirements

1 CCR 301-26 5.01(g) The operator shall successfully pass a driving performance test including a pre-trip inspection prior to transporting students and annually thereafter. This test shall be conducted in a vehicle, which is similar in type and size to the vehicle the applicant is assigned to operate. School districts, charter schools, and service providers have the option to re-test at their discretion. **5.01(h)** The operator shall receive pre-service training on the type of vehicle(s) to be driven, the type of duties they may be required to perform, mountain and adverse weather training pursuant to C.R.S. 42-4-1902, mandatory reporter training pursuant to C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(z), proper use of restraints on students pursuant to C.R.S. 22- 32-147, and student confidentiality laws under C.R.S. 22- 1-123 and 22- 32-109.3, prior to transporting students. **5.01(j)** The operator shall receive training regarding the proper use and maintenance of Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS) and proper wheelchair securement when the operator is engaged in transportation involving these systems and devices, prior to transporting students.

2.3.4 – Retarders

There are four basic types of retarders (exhaust, engine, hydraulic, and electric). All retarders can be turned on or off by the driver.

Road Markings

A double solid yellow line is used to indicate that traffic from both directions is prohibited from crossing.

Decorations

16.5 Per the effective date of these rules, school transportation vehicles owned or leased by the district, charter school, and service provider that are used for student transportation shall not have the windows obstructed in any way by advertising, decorations, or vehicle wraps. **16.05(a)** Exception: Tint applied by the vehicle manufacturer to industry standards.

Maintenance and Repair

12.5 Documentation for reported defects must include all the following: **12.05(a)** The name of the school district, charter school or service provider; **12.05(b)** Date and time the report was submitted; **12.05(c)** All damage, defects or deficiencies of the school transportation vehicle; and **12.05(d)** The name of the individual who prepared the report.

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10.1.6 – Overhead Inside Rearview Mirror

This mirror is mounted directly above the windshield on the driver's side area of the bus. This mirror is used to monitor passenger activity inside the bus. It may provide limited visibility directly in back of the bus if the bus is equipped with a glass-bottomed rear emergency door. There is a blind spot area directly behind the driver's seat as well as a large blind spot area that begins at the rear bumper and could extend up to 400 feet or more behind the bus. You must use the exterior side mirrors to monitor traffic that approaches and enters this area. You should position the mirror to see: The top of the rear window in the top of the mirror. All of the students, including the heads of the students right behind you.

Emergency Evacuations

As the driver of a school transportation vehicle, you could potentially be the only adult present if an emergency occurs. As the adults present, all of the students will be looking to you for instructions and leadership in an emergency. Having written documentation that you are conducting evacuations and reading evacuation instructions prior to every activity trip is required per 1 CCR 301-26, 19.0.

Restrictions

(K) - Intrastate only: If an applicant certifies their status as either Non-Excepted Intrastate or Excepted Intrastate, the state must indicate on the CDL, if issued, that person is restricted from operating a CMV in interstate commerce. States may impose this restriction for reasons other than those specified above. In Colorado, K restriction is also used to designate individuals between the ages of 18 through 20, or individuals that do not meet the Department of Transportation (DOT) medical requirements but have been issued a waiver from the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) to operate a CDL vehicle.

Weight of a school bus

An unloaded conventional or transit school bus weighs 6 to 10 tons. When loaded this weight increases to 10 to 14 tons. Total load weight includes the weight of the bus, the number, and weight of the passengers, and any equipment, luggage, or baggage.

Railroad Crossing

18.15 School transportation vehicle operators of School Buses, Multifunction Buses and Motor Coach Buses are not required to stop at crossings controlled only by a red, amber, green traffic control signal when it is in the green position, or when the crossing is controlled by a police officer or human flag person, or when the crossing is marked with an official "exempt" sign placed on the railroad crossing light post or cross buckpost.

Winter Driving

Three key elements to safe winter driving are: Stay alert, Slow down and Stay in control (slowly pass)

Chains

Remember that when the bus is empty, chain traction is limited. Never drive over 30 mph when chains are installed on the tires.

Classes of Commercial Operator

Class B — Heavy Straight Vehicles. Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not more than 10,000 pounds GVWR.

Emergency Planning

1 CCR 301-26 **4.5** School districts, charter schools and service providers shall have written emergency procedures and/or contingency plans to be followed in the event of a traffic accident, vehicle breakdown, unexpected school closing, unforeseen route change, or relocation of a student stop in an emergency.

Maximum Driving Time

When calculating your maximum drive/on-duty time it is important to understand that the total number of hours includes ANY on-duty time for ALL employers. You cannot exceed 10 hours of driving time in one 24-hour period. You also cannot exceed 14 hours of on duty time in one 24-hour period.

In-Service

5.01(e) The operator shall receive a minimum of six hours of in-service training annually. A portion of this annual in-service requirement may occur during the school year.

Headlights

13.3 A school transportation vehicle's headlights or daytime running headlights shall be activated while the vehicle is in operation.

Backing

13.9 The school transportation vehicle operator shall use extreme caution when backing. Before backing on a roadway, highway, or private property, the horn or audible warning device shall be sounded, and four-way hazard lamps actuated or there shall be a person outside the vehicle giving direction. 13.09(a) Backing a school transportation vehicle when students are outside of the vehicle at a student stop is prohibited.

The Effect of Speed on Stopping Distance.

The faster you drive, the greater the impact or striking power of your vehicle. When you double your speed from 20 to 40 mph the impact is 4 times greater. The braking distance is also 4 times longer. Triple the speed from 20 to 60 mph and the impact and braking distance is 9 times greater. At 60 mph, your stopping distance is greater than the length of a football field. **Increase the speed to 80 mph and the impact and braking distance are 16 times greater than at 20 mph.** High speeds greatly increase the severity of crashes and stopping distances. By slowing down, you can reduce braking distance.

Student stops signal out of traffic

Turn on the right turn signal indicator about 100-300 feet or approximately 3-5 seconds before pulling over.

Retarders

The retarder is designed to slow the bus to maintain a safe speed. The retarder will not completely stop the bus. Use the retarder for all slowing needs. Proper use of the retarder will improve safety and save money by avoiding wear on the bus's braking system. **Retarders control only the rear wheels.** This gives the driver complete control of the steering system. Some retarders work in reverse as well as forward gears. This helps to prevent the service brake from overheating. The retarder can overheat when used for long periods. Cool the retarder by discontinuing use for 10 minutes at a minimum of 15 mph before stopping the bus. Use only the service brakes in this cool-down period.

Student Stops

Students shall be instructed to walk approximately ten (10) feet in front of the school bus and wait for the operator's signal before crossing the roadway. Check traffic in both directions before signaling students to cross a roadway. When it is safe to cross, establish eye contact with the student/s, and give the prearranged signal for crossing. The signal should be clear enough that motorists will not mistake it as a signal to proceed. Students are to be instructed to stop one additional time at the corner of the bus prior to crossing the centerline, look both ways, and proceed when it is safe to do so. Use the outside P.A. system if it is available. Follow district/charter or service provider procedures.

Seatbelt cutter

1 CCR 301-25 **23.7** All school transportation vehicles shall be equipped with one durable webbing cutter having a full width handgrip and a protected blade. The cutter shall be mounted in a location accessible to the seated driver.

The Clearinghouse Rule The Clearinghouse rule requires FMCSA-regulated employers, medical review officers (MROs), substance abuse professionals (SAPs), consortia/third-party administrators (C/TPAs), and other service agents to report to the Clearinghouse information related to violations of the drug and alcohol regulations in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 40 and 382 by current and prospective employees.

Emergency Evacuation Using Rear Door

Use the rear door when a front door evacuation is impossible or unsafe to use, or when it is imperative to evacuate as quickly as possible by using the rear exits.

Height

When the bus is fully loaded, the center of gravity is even higher because the bus seats are 1 ½ feet above the floor.