

THE CROSSING Chapter 1

Portions of Colorado school bus regulations, 1959,
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Underlines and notations by DA's office.

SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS

STATE OF COLORADO

(Revised 1959)



Adopted by

**COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

Published by

**COLORADO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AUGUST, 1959**

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H. GRANT VEST
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

COLORADO
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August, 1959

FOREWORD

One of the statutory responsibilities of the State Department of Education is the safe transportation of children to and from school. For this reason the SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS have been developed and revised from time to time to fit changing needs.

The present regulations and standards are a combination of laws enacted by the State Legislature and regulations enacted by the State Board of Education in cooperation with the Motor Vehicle Division of the State Department of Revenue, as provided by law.

The Colorado State Department of Education wishes to express its appreciation to all those persons whose suggestions and counsel have contributed much to the development of this publication.

H. GRANT VEST,
Commissioner of Education.

MANUAL OF STATUTES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING SCHOOL BUSES USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE STATE OF COLORADO

Revised, 1959

The operation of school buses in all school districts of the State of Colorado is governed by laws given in Chapter 13 of the 1953 Colorado Statutes Annotated, as amended.

For the actual and complete wording of the law, the reader may refer to MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS, State of Colorado, Revised, to the end of the Legislative Session 1952, which may be obtained by writing to the Motor Vehicle Division, State of Colorado, Capitol Annex Building, Denver, Colorado, for Seventy-five cents (75c).

The manual here presented, however, gives a practical, working summary of the Act as it relates to the operation and use of school buses, setting forth in full or in substance the *statutes*, and the *regulations* that are based on these statutes.

STATUTES

13-1-1. Definitions of words and phrases. "School bus": Every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency and operated for the transportation of children to or from school, or privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.

13-3-4. Special restrictions on drivers of school buses. A school bus driver must be 17 years or over and must have a special chauffeur's license.

13-4-68. Certain vehicles must stop at all railroad grade crossings. The driver of any school bus, before crossing at grade any track or tracks of a railroad, shall stop such vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 10 feet from the nearest rail and while so stopped shall listen and look for any approaching train. This provision does not apply when traffic is directed by a police officer or traffic control signal.

This provision shall not apply at street railway grade crossings within a business or residence district.

13-4-84. School buses—stops—signs—passing. (1) The driver of a vehicle upon any highway, road or street, upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus which has stopped, shall stop his vehicle before reaching such school bus if there is in operation on said school bus visual signal lights as specified in subsection (2) of this section, and said driver shall not proceed until the visual signal lights are no longer being actuated; provided, that in the case of small passenger type vehicles having a seating capacity of not more than six, and if such vehicles are operated as school buses but not owned by the school district, no such visual signal lights need be displayed or actuated.

(2) Every school bus used for the transportation of school children shall bear upon the front and rear thereof plainly visible and legible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters not less than eight inches in height, and except as provided in subsection (1) of this section in the case of small passenger type vehicles, shall display four visual signal lights which shall be two alternating flashing red lights visible to the drivers of vehicles approaching from the front of said bus and two alternating flashing red lights visible to the drivers of vehicles approaching from the rear of such bus; said visual signal lights shall be mounted as high as practicable, be as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall be located on the same level. Said lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight, and which signal lights shall be actuated by the driver of said school bus whenever such vehicle is being stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children not less than two hundred feet prior to the point at which such bus is to be stopped, and at no other time; except, that such lights need not be actuated at locations where the board of education of the school district or its duly authorized agent shall by prior written designation declare such actuation unnecessary or undesirable.

(3) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway.

(4) Every school bus shall stop as far to the right of the highway, road or street as possible before discharging or loading passengers and, when possible, shall not stop where the visibility is obscured for a distance of two hundred feet either way from the bus.

Approved by the Governor

May 11, 1959

13-4-103. Special restrictions on lamps—Sale of unapproved lamps—Prohibited. (a) Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle other than head lamps, spot lamps, or auxiliary driving lamps which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300 candle-power shall be so directed that no part of the beam shall strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than 75 feet from the vehicle.

(b) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying a red light visible from directly in front thereof, nor shall any vehicle display lights or reflectors thereon except as herein specifically provided, and in no event shall they display lights other than white or amber lights visible from the front, or lights other than red visible to the rear thereof; however, the rear license plate illuminating light and back-up light shall be white as provided for in this part. This section shall not apply to authorized emergency vehicles.

(c) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles except as a means for indicating right or left turn.

(d) No person shall have for sale, sell or offer for sale for use upon or as a part of the equipment of a motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, bicycle or motorcycle, or use upon any such vehicle any head lamp, auxiliary driving lamp, signal lamp, cowl lamp, courtesy lamp, back-up lamp, clearance lamp, identification lamp, side marker lamp, spot lamp, electric lanterns or reflectors which lamp or reflector is required hereunder, or parts of any of the foregoing, which tend to change the original design or performance, unless of a type which has been submitted to and approved by the Colorado Department of Highways.

13-4-105. Brakes. Every motor vehicle * * * when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle, including two separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two wheels.

Every new motor vehicle * * * hereafter constructed or sold in this State and operated upon the highways shall be equipped with service brakes upon all wheels of every such vehicle.

13-4-111. Safety glass in motor vehicles. On or after the date of passage of this Act (April 3, 1935), no person shall sell any new motor vehicle nor shall any new motor vehicle be registered thereafter which is designed or used for the purpose of transportation of passengers for compensation or as a school bus, unless such vehicle is equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, or windshield, and no person shall replace any safety glass with other than safety glass.

(Types of glass and lamps approved by the Colorado Department of Highways as meeting the requirements of this section and section 258 are given in the publication, "List of Devices Approved by the Colorado Department of Highways for Use on Motor Vehicles, Trailers, Trailer Coaches, Semi-Trailers," which may be obtained by writing Chief, Motor Vehicle Division, Room 4, Capitol Annex Building, Denver, Colorado.)

The following regulations, governing the operation of public school buses of the State of Colorado, were adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to the authority of Ch. 13-4-85, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1957, as amended.

13-4-85. Rules for school buses—penalty. (1) The state board of education by and with the advice of the director of revenue shall adopt and enforce regulations not inconsistent with this article to govern the operation of all school buses used for the transportation of school children when owned and operated by any school district or privately owned and operated under contract with any school district in this state and such regulations shall by reference be made a part of any such contract with a school district. Every school district, its officers and employees, and every person employed under contract by a school district shall be subject to said regulations. (2) Any person operating a school bus under contract with a school district who fails to comply with any said regulations shall be guilty of breach of contract and such contract shall be cancelled after notice and hearing by the responsible officers of such district. (3) The violation of

any provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor, and any person convicted of the violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment of not more than one year or both.

I. CONTRACTS

A written agreement shall be entered into by the Board of Education of each school district providing pupil transportation, and any person employed by such board or contracting with such board for the transportation of pupils. Each such agreement shall provide that the party contracting with the board for the transportation of pupils, or the driver employed by the board, agrees to comply with and observe: (1) all provisions of the Colorado Motor Vehicle Laws, (2) all rules and regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education, and (3) any additional rules and regulations which said board of education shall stipulate in writing relating to the transportation of pupils. The rules and regulations herein set forth shall be considered as being incorporated in all such contracts.

II. USAGE

No school bus reported unsafe by the driver, an officer of the Colorado State Patrol or other law enforcement officer, or deemed unsafe by the board of education, nor any bus which has been involved in an accident shall be continued in use for the transportation of pupils unless and until proper repairs have been made to restore such school bus to a safe condition for the transportation of pupils.

All repairs shall be made by a competent mechanic and in no case shall such a bus be returned to use for the transportation of pupils until it shall have been inspected and approved by an official state inspection station or by an officer of the Colorado State Patrol.

No school bus owned and operated by a school district shall be used for any purpose except to transport pupils engaged in school connected activities except by written permission of the school administrator and under his special direction.

III. MAINTENANCE

The driver of a school bus shall inspect the bus before each trip to ascertain that all headlamps, signal lamps, dimensional lamps, brakes, horns, steering apparatus, tires, mirrors, and all other equipment are in good working order.

The windshield, side windows, rear windows, rear vision mirrors (inside or outside the bus), and the interior of the bus shall be clean at all times.

All headlamps, signal lamps, reflectors, and dimensional lamps shall be clean at all times.

IV. OPERATION

1. The driver of a school bus shall at all times observe and comply with the laws covering the use of vehicles as provided in Chapter 13, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1957, as amended, and all other laws regulating the use of motor vehicles.

2. It is unlawful for any person to drive a school bus in such a manner as to indicate either wilful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. The driver of a school bus shall at all times operate the bus in a safe, prudent, and careful manner, and comply with the laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction in which the bus is being operated. He shall at all times govern the speed and the operation of the bus with due regard for the conditions then existing. N 18

3. The driver of a school bus shall comply with the lawful order or direction of any police officer vested with authority to direct, control, and regulate traffic.

4. The driver of a school bus shall make a complete stop at all railroad grade crossings. When the driver has ascertained that the track is clear in both directions after making such stop, the bus shall proceed in low gear until the tracks are crossed. The door and the left window shall be opened in order that the driver might listen and look more effectively for on-coming traffic. 18

5. The driver of a school bus shall comply with all traffic control devices unless at the time otherwise directed by a police officer.

6. The driver of a school bus shall drive on the right side of roadways, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle, or when on the extreme left-hand lane for making a left turn from a multi-laned roadway or when the right side of the roadway is closed, or when on a one-way street.

7. The driver of a school bus shall not follow another vehicle more closely than 300 feet except to overtake and pass the other vehicle.

8. The driver of a school bus shall not coast with the gears in neutral or with the clutch disengaged except in the process of stopping the bus.

9. The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection of roadways shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle which has entered the intersection from another roadway unless otherwise ordered by local ordinance.

10. The driver of a school bus shall make every stop for loading or discharging passengers as far to the right of the roadway as the shoulders of the roadway will permit.

11. Wherever possible, the driver of a school bus shall make every stop in a place where the bus may be seen for a distance of 200 feet in either direction.

12. The driver of a school bus shall actuate the flashing red warning lights not less than 200 feet from the point of stopping to receive or discharge school children (except at stops where the governing board of education has declared the actuation of the lights unnecessary), and at no other time.

13. Passengers who must cross the roadway either upon disembarking from a school bus or for entering the bus shall cross the roadway to the front of the bus. Under such circumstances, the driver of the school bus shall not deactivate the flashing red warning lights until all such passengers shall have reached an area where they are safe from approaching traffic, or shall have entered the bus.

14. The driver of a school bus shall not stop to receive or discharge passengers at distances of less than 800 feet or two blocks.

15. The driver of a school bus shall require that children enter and leave the bus through the service door on the forward right hand side of the bus. The door shall be opened and closed by the bus driver. Emergency doors and exits shall be used only in the event of an emergency or in the process of bus safety drills.

16. The driver of a school bus shall not leave the bus while the engine is running. In event of an accident or break-down, while the bus is transporting children, the driver shall not leave the bus to telephone or to summon help if there are responsible persons who can be sent on this mission.

17. The driver of a school bus shall not permit anyone except school teachers or pupils regularly assigned to the school bus to ride in such bus unless he has a written permit from the school administrator in charge.

18. The driver of a school bus shall make certain that all doors are closed at all times when the bus is in motion.

19. The driver of a school bus shall not permit anyone to stand in the bus while it is in motion. He shall be responsible for maintaining proper seating of passengers and for seeing that his vision to the front, sides, and rear is not obstructed.

20. The driver of a school bus shall be responsible for enforcing the rules for pupil conduct (Section VIII of these regulations).

21. The driver of a school bus shall refrain from unnecessary conversation while the bus is in motion.

22. The driver of a school bus shall refrain from and prohibit smoking whenever pupils are being carried.

23. The driver of a school bus shall not transport or permit to be transported on the bus, any animal, firearm, explosive, or any other thing that might endanger the lives or health of the passengers.

24. No school bus driver who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotic drug, or other drugs which affect or impair driving ability shall drive a school bus.

25. The driver of a school bus involved in any accident resulting in personal injury or property damage shall stop at once and comply with all laws and ordinances and render aid, if possible.

26. The driver of a school bus shall not drive backwards on school grounds unless the rear of the bus is guarded by a second responsible person.

27. The driver of a school bus shall not operate any school bus with a trailer or other vehicle attached while children are being transported.

28. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the bus with a broken window except to finish the route or in case of an emergency where repairs cannot be made at once. In no case shall a bus be operated with non-transparent material in the windshield, rear window, or side windows that would impair the driver's view to the front, to the sides, or by means of a mirror to the rear.

V. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL BUSES

BUS CHASSIS

Air Cleaner

1. The bus shall be equipped with an adequate type air cleaner mounted outside the passenger compartment. If the air intake is located inside the passenger compartment, the air cleaner shall be equipped with an adequate backfire deflector, and shall be approved by the Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc.⁶

Axes

1. Front axle shall have a gross weight rating at the ground equal to or exceeding that portion of the total load which is supported by the front axle.

2. Rear axle shall be of full-floating type, and shall have a gross weight rating at ground equal to or exceeding that portion of the total load which is supported by the rear axle.

3. **Exception for small vehicles:** the requirement in item 2, above, for full-floating rear axle does not apply to small vehicles not specifically manufactured as school buses.

4. **Exception for transit and metropolitan type vehicles:** the front axle shall be wide-track, heavy duty bus type, and shall have a gross weight rating at ground equal to or exceeding that portion of the total load which is supported by the front axle. The rear axle shall be of a full-floating heavy duty bus type, and shall have a gross weight rating at ground equal to or exceeding that portion of the total load which is supported by the rear axle.

Battery

1. The storage battery, as established by the manufacturer's rating, shall be of sufficient capacity for starting, lighting, signal devices, heating, and other electrical equipment.

2. No bus shall be equipped with a battery of less than 120 ampere-hours if 6 volt, or less than 60 ampere-hours if 12 volt, measured at 20 hour rate.

3. The battery shall be mounted outside the passenger compartment in an adequate carrier and be readily accessible for servicing and removal, preferably from outside the passenger compartment. If battery is not mounted under the hood, it shall be mounted on the left side of the chassis frame so that the center line of the battery shall be 52 inches back of the cowl, and no part of the battery shall extend above the top of the chassis frame.

4. **Exception for small vehicles:** no bus shall be equipped with a battery of less than 90 ampere-hours if 6 volt, or less than 45 ampere-hours if 12 volt, measured at 20 hour rate. Provision for battery not mounted under hood does not apply.

5. **Exception for transit and metropolitan type vehicles:** Provision for battery not mounted under hood does not apply.

Brakes

1. Four-wheel brakes, adequate at all times to control the bus when fully loaded shall be provided.

2. The foot or service brake shall be capable of stopping the complete unit (wet chassis weight,⁷ plus body weight, plus driver's weight, without pupils), from initial brake application within 22 feet when driven at a speed of 20 miles per hour over a dry level road having approximately .5 coefficient of friction

⁶ 207 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois.

⁷ With oil, water, and full load of fuel.

C. The school administrator or the Board of Education shall furnish the licensing agency a statement relating to the applicant's having met the requirements of health and first aid under the conditions stated in A and B.

D. Special School Bus Driver's License

School bus drivers to be licensed shall be required to take a specific test over and above the chauffeur test covering school bus law and regulations.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

A. Extended definition of school bus

Type A school buses are those constructed specifically as school buses.

Type B school buses are those used to transport children to and from school which were not constructed specifically as school buses.

B. School bus color

All type A buses shall be of uniform color, specifically, School Bus Chrome, No. 1365, glass, yellow, from the Federal Specification TT-C-595 with black lettering. All type B school buses, except passenger cars and station wagons, which are owned by school districts and used primarily as school buses, shall conform to this requirement.

C. Transportation for school connected activities

School buses used to transport children to and from school connected activities such as games, excursions, field trips, shall be considered to be in the same category of use as when transporting children between home and school and shall be subject to the same laws and regulations.

D. Requirement to have copies of regulations

All school administrators and school bus drivers must have copies of these school bus regulations. Requests for copies should be addressed to the Director of School Transportation, State Department of Education, Room 530, State Office Building, Denver 2, Colorado.

VIII. PUPIL CONDUCT AS BUS PASSENGERS

1. Passengers shall go to their assigned seats, without crowding or pushing, and remain seated while the bus is in motion.

2. Passengers shall not extend arms, legs, or head out of the bus windows.

3. Passengers shall not talk to the driver while the bus is in motion except in an emergency.

4. Passengers will not tamper with the emergency doors or windows or any other part of the bus equipment.

5. Passengers shall not mar or deface the bus and its equipment.

6. Passengers shall not open the bus windows except by direction of the bus driver.

7. Passengers shall not fight or scuffle on the bus or throw objects from the bus windows.

8. Passengers will keep books, lunch boxes, and similar objects out of the aisle of the bus.

9. Passengers must remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop.

10. Passengers shall leave the bus in an orderly manner.