

School Bus or Alternative Vehicle

The Transportation of Pupils in School Buses and Other Vehicles

School Bus Definition s.340.01(56)

A **"SCHOOL BUS"** is: (See chart on next page for examples.) A motor vehicle painted school bus yellow *when transporting*:

OR

A motor vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers in addition to the driver *when transporting*:

- Pupils (K-12) to or from public, private, vocational, technical or adult education school.
- Pupils (K-12) to or from curricular or extracurricular school activities (not-charter operation).
- Pupils (K-12) to or from religious instruction on days when school is in session.
- Children (under 21 years of age) with exceptional needs, to or from an education program approved by the Department of Public Instruction.
- Persons with disabilities or elderly persons in a vehicle **painted school bus yellow** in connection with any transportation assistance program.

Any vehicle which meets the definition of a school bus must be painted school bus yellow in accordance with Wis. Statute 347.44 and equipped in accordance with Admin. Rule Trans. 300.

School Bus Driver Requirements:

- The driver must have an "S" endorsement on his/her Wisconsin driver license.
- Possess a valid Wisconsin driver license of the appropriate class.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have sufficient use of both hands and the foot normally used to operate the foot brake and foot accelerator correctly and efficiently.
- Meet the physical/medical standards for school bus endorsement referenced in Admin. Rule Trans. 112 by providing either a current federal medical card or an MV3030B (medical examination report for "S" or "P" endorsement).
- No felony convictions for offenses that will result in disqualification for obtaining an "S" endorsement. Refer to the "School Bus Disqualifications" chart in this manual for a list of convictions and their associated term of disqualification.

"SCHOOL BUS" does NOT include: (See chart on next page for examples)

- Vehicles owned or operated by a parent or guardian transporting his or her children regardless if there is any contract or paid compensation.
- "Alternative" vehicles (see next page).
- A motor bus painted a color other than school bus yellow used for school-related curricular or extracurricular transportation (charter operation).
- A motor bus operated in an urban mass transit system.
- A yellow painted school bus used in a charter operation that is NOT school-related.
- A "human service vehicle" (s.340.01(23G)) painted a color other than school bus yellow transporting persons with disabilities or elderly persons under any government transportation assistance program.

Additional School Bus Information

- A school bus may not tow a trailer.
- A school bus, motor bus or motor vehicle used in transportation for extracurricular activities must be under the immediate supervision of a competent adult.
- A school bus may not be used to transport more persons than can be seated on the permanently mounted seats facing forward without interfering with the operator.

Alternative Vehicle Definition s.121.555

A school board or governing body of a private school may provide pupil transportation services by the following alternative methods:

- Use a motor vehicle not painted school bus yellow to transport 9 or less passengers in addition to the operator.

OR

- For **emergency** transportation - **temporarily** use a motor vehicle, not painted school bus yellow, to transport 10 or more passengers, when the school board or governing body requests the Secretary of Transportation to determine that an emergency exists because no regular transportation is available.

Alternative Vehicle Driver Requirements

- Possess a valid Wisconsin driver license or a valid license of the appropriate class and endorsement from another jurisdiction.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have sufficient use of both hands and the foot normally used to operate the foot brake and foot accelerator correctly and efficiently.
- No felony convictions for offenses that will result in disqualification for obtaining an “S” endorsement. Refer to the “School Bus Disqualifications” chart in this manual for a list of convictions and their associated term of disqualification.

(Example) Color of vehicle	# of People (including driver) Vehicle design (including driver) Vehicle GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating)	Type of Passenger	Transporting where and when	Required Driver License Class and “Endorsement”
(1) Yellow	15 or less (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry less than 16 people 26,000 lbs or less GVWR.	K-12	To and from school or religious training during school hours, or school-related curricular or extracurricular activities.	D with “S”
(2) Yellow	16 or more (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people 26,000 lbs or less GVWR.	K-12	To and from school or religious training during school hours, or school-related curricular or extracurricular activities.	C with “P” and “S”
(3) Yellow	16 or more (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people 26,001 lbs or more GVWR.	K-12	To and from school or religious training during school hours, or school-related curricular or extracurricular activities.	B with “P” and “S”
(4) Yellow	15 or less (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry less than 16 people 26,000 lbs or less GVWR.	Anyone	Non school-related transportation. Example: A club to a Brewer’s game (charter trip).	D
(5) Yellow	16 or more (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people 26,000 lbs or less GVWR.	Anyone	Non school-related transportation. Example: A scout group to a summer camp (charter trip).	C with “P”
(6) Yellow	16 or more (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people 26,001 lbs or more GVWR.	Anyone	Non school-related transportation. Example: A club to a Badger football game (charter trip).	B with “P”
(7) Non-Yellow (Alternative Vehicle)	10 or less (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry less than 16 people 26,000 lbs or less GVWR.	K-12	To and from any school function. Examples: Students from day care center to school. Student with disabilities to school.	D
(8) Non-Yellow	11 to 15 (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry less than 16 people 26,000 lbs or less GVWR.	Anyone	Non school-related transportation. Example: Adult softball team to Badger State Games (charter trip).	D
(9) Non-Yellow	16 or more (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people 26,000 lbs or less GVWR.	Anyone	Non school-related transportation. Example: A church group to a picnic (charter trip).	C with “P”
(10) Non-Yellow (charter bus)	16 or more (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people 26,001 lbs or more GVWR.	K-12	Curricular or extracurricular school-related activities (charter trip).	B with “P”