

*****DRAFT - NOT FOR FILING*****

3301-83-20 General rules.

(A) For purposes of this paragraph, “vehicle(s)” means school buses and motor vans, as defined in rule 3301-83-19 and rule 3301-83-04 of the Administrative Code.

(1) The use of alcohol, nicotine products, or any cigarette, tobacco, alternative to nicotine product, vapor product, or electronic smoking device, as those terms are defined in section 2927.02 of the Revised Code, and non-prescribed drugs is prohibited on in the vehicle school bus.

(B)2) Firearms, ammunition, weapons, explosives or other dangerous materials or objects are prohibited in the vehicle on school buses. Animals are also prohibited, with the exception of those identified as service animals as defined by 28 C.F.R. part 35.104 and C.F.R. part 36.104 (October 11, 2016).

(C)3) All vehicles buses shall will be kept clean on the inside and on the outside. Front and rear windows, lights and mirrors should be clean and all markings clearly visible.

(D)4) The following equipment may be installed or stored in the vehicle a school bus: broom, snow brush, ice scraper, and trash container. All equipment will must be properly secured.

(E)5) All vehicles buses will shall be equipped with emergency assistance cards which list three telephone numbers to call. The cards are to shall provide space for describing the location of the vehicle school bus and the type of emergency.

(F)6) The vehicle school bus driver will shall use the seat belt whenever the vehicle school bus is in motion.

(G)7) Identified route hazards will shall be documented and provided to vehicle school bus drivers whose routes are affected. Vehicle School bus drivers should report any such regular pedestrian or vehicular concerns as the following:

- (1a) Construction sites;
- (2b) Areas of poor visibility;
- (3c) Restricted sight distances;
- (4c) Railroad crossings.
- (5d) Other route hazards as noted by the vehicle school bus driver.

(H) Equipment such as music instruments, athletic uniforms, etc., which cannot be held by passengers in their seats, shall be stored in the rear of the bus. The placement of such items in the rear of the bus shall not displace students. When it is necessary to transport such equipment concurrently with pupils, space shall be provided to comply with this rule without having standees in the bus. Equipment required in the assistance of preschool and special needs children shall be safely and properly secured. A clear aisle to the exit door must be maintained at all times.

(I) Maximum hours. The school bus driver shall operate the bus for not more than ten hours in any one twenty-four hour period. Operation means on road driving. Lay over time does not count as operating time.

(J)8) Fueling

(1a) Vehicles Buses will shall not be fueled while the engine is running.

Commented [FH1]: The rule has been updated according to SB 9 (134th GA)'s requirement that restrictive regulatory language be removed. Further changes are to reflect the change in the name of the agency consistent with HB 33 (135th GA). Global changes are made to address the expanded authority to use motor vans, according to HB 33 (135th GA), R.C. 4511.76.

Commented [FH2]: Language is updated to reflect definitions contained in R.C. 2927.02.

Commented [FH3]: Code of Federal Regulations citation format is updated according to the *Legislative Service Commission Rule Drafting Manual* (2020).

Commented [FH4]: Language in this paragraph has been moved to (B).

Commented [FH5]: Language in this paragraph has been moved to (D).

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- (2b) Smoking ~~will shall~~ not be permitted while fueling.
- (3c) ~~Vehicles Buses~~ ~~will shall~~ not be fueled with pupils on board.
- (K9) Except in cases of extreme-emergency, cellular telephones, including hands-free and wireless devices, or other portable communication devices ~~will shall~~ not be used by the driver while the ~~vehicle school bus~~ is in motion or while the driver is supervising the loading or unloading of students.
- (L10) Medically necessary oxygen for students may be transported provided it is properly secured. The oxygen ~~will must~~ be housed in portable units less than fifteen pounds total weight each. Guidelines for transporting oxygen ~~will be developed and administered~~ by the department of education and workforce are available at: education.ohio.gov.
- (M11) Districts ~~will shall~~ adopt engine idling time policies that minimize the amount of time diesel engines ~~are shall be~~ left idling. Diesel engine idling in excess of five minutes in school loading zones ~~is shall~~ not be permitted unless ~~the operation of~~ a wheelchair lift is ~~needed required~~.
- (B) When school buses are transporting items such as music instruments, athletic equipment, etc., which cannot be held by passengers in their laps, the items will be stored in the rear of the school bus. The placement of such items in the rear of the bus will not displace students. When it is necessary to transport such equipment concurrently with pupils, space is to be provided to comply with this rule without having standees in the bus. A clear aisle to all doors and emergency exits will be maintained at all times. Equipment needed to assist preschool and special needs children will be safely and properly secured.
- (C) When motor vans are transporting items such as music instruments, athletic equipment, etc., which cannot be held by passengers in their laps, the items will be properly secured in the storage compartment of the van. The placement of such items in the storage compartment will not obscure the driver's vision through the rear window. Equipment needed to assist preschool and special needs children will be safely and properly secured.
- (D) Maximum hours. The school bus driver will not operate the bus for more than ten hours in any one twenty-four-hour period. Operation means on-road driving. Lay-over time does not count as operating time.