

Pupil Transportation Office
Ohio Department of Education

Position Paper
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Procedural change for drivers operating school
Transportation vehicles equipped with a PARK position on the gear selector

The procedures identified in rule 3301-83-12 (B) for railroad crossings, and in rule 3301-83-13 (C) for school bus stop procedures were written for school buses that are not equipped with a PARK position on their gear selector. These vehicles, both automatic and manual transmission, are typically equipped only with a NEUTRAL position on the gear selector.

In buses and vans equipped with a PARK position on the gear selector, use of the PARK position results in a parking pawl being activated in the transmission, effectively preventing the vehicle from movement. It also disengages the engine from the drive line.

As a result of this mechanical action, the procedures for railroad crossings and school bus stops may be modified as follows:

- 1) If a PARK position is available, the vehicle shall be placed in PARK instead of NEUTRAL.
- 2) If a PARK position is used in lieu of NEUTRAL, the parking brake does not need to be applied.

These procedures may be followed in lieu of the procedures identified in the administrative codes listed above.

For questions regarding this position paper
please contact the Pupil Transportation Office at the Ohio Department of Education.