



School Bus or Alternative Vehicle

The transportation of pupils in school buses and other vehicles.

BDS105 10/2023

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. Stats. 347.44 and equipped in accordance with Admin. Rule Trans. 300.

School Bus Driver Requirements:

- » Be at least 18 years of age.
- » Have a valid Wisconsin driver license of the appropriate class.
- » Present either a valid federal medical card or a completed form [MV3030B, Physical Examination Report](#) for “S” or “P” Endorsement showing the applicant meets the medical standards. See *Commercial Driver License Medical Requirements* in the *WI Commercial Driver’s Manual* or at [wisconsin^{dmv}.gov](#) for more information.
- » Have no convictions for offenses that result in disqualification for obtaining an “S” endorsement. See *School Bus Disqualifications* in the *WI Commercial Driver’s Manual* or at [wisconsin^{dmv}.gov](#) for a list of convictions and their period of disqualification.
- » Pass knowledge, road signs, vision and skills tests.

“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, 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 fewer 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

- » Be at least 18 years of age.
- » Have a valid Wisconsin driver license of the appropriate class.
- » Present either a valid federal medical card or a completed form [MV3030B, Physical Examination Report](#) for “S” or “P” Endorsement showing the applicant meets the medical standards. See *Commercial Driver License Medical Requirements* in the *WI Commercial Driver’s Manual* or at [wisconsin^{dmv}.gov](#) for more information.
- » Have no convictions for offenses that result in disqualification for obtaining an “S” endorsement. See *School Bus Disqualifications* in the *WI Commercial Driver’s Manual* or at [wisconsin^{dmv}.gov](#) for a list of convictions and their period of disqualification.
- » Pass knowledge, road signs, vision and skills tests.

School Bus or Alternative Vehicle

| (Example) Color of vehicle | Number 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 fewer (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry fewer 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 fewer (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry fewer 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 fewer (includes driver). Vehicle designed to carry fewer 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 fewer 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” |