

## **UNIT ONE - INTRODUCTION**

### **PURPOSE OF MANUAL**

The purpose of the Colorado School Bus Driver Trainer's Manual is to reduce the potential for school bus crashes and injury or death to school children while being transported to and from school or on school-sponsored trips. This manual provides information necessary for training school bus drivers.

### **LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES**

**State Legislation.** Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) 22-32-113  
Transportation of pupils-when

1. The board of education of a school district may furnish transportation:
  - a) To and from public schools of the district for any reasonable classification of resident pupils enrolled in the schools of the district;

The remainder of this statute covers in detail the authority given to the school district board of education in providing transportation services to the students in their district.

22-51-108 C.R.S. Public School Transportation Fund

“The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of this article. Such rules and regulations shall include reasonable and adequate standards of safety in the maintenance and operation of buses, the maintenance of records by school districts, and length of bus routes, the number of children to be transported in the various types of buses, and such other rules and regulations pertaining to pupil transportation as will promote the welfare of the students and afford reasonable protection to the public.”

42-4-1903 (1) (a) C.R.S. School buses – stops – signs - passing

“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 the vehicle before reaching such school bus if there are 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; but, in the case of small passenger-type vehicles operated as school buses having a seating capacity of not more than fifteen, no such visual signal lights need be displayed or actuated.”

42-4-1904 (1) C.R.S. Regulations for school buses

“The State Board of Education, by and with the advice of the executive director of the department, 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 and to govern the discharge of passengers from such school buses.”

The complete statutes can be found in Section F of the Administrator Reference Manual.

### **Department of Education Rules.**

#### **1 CCR 301-25. Colorado Minimum Standards Governing School Transportation Vehicles**

##### **2251-R-1.00 Statement of Basis and Purpose**

The purpose of this Amendment is to establish minimum standards for school transportation vehicles purchased for use in Colorado. These standards are necessary to improve the safety of the children riding the buses and the mechanical efficiency of the bus. The new standards meet or exceed the national recommended minimum standards and utilize state-of-the-art industry advances.

#### **1 CCR 301-26. Rules for the Operation of School Transportation Vehicles**

##### **4204-R-200.00 Statement of Basis and Purpose**

4204-R-200.01 Colorado law provides for the State Board of Education to adopt and enforce regulations governing the operation of school buses for their transportation of students pursuant to 42-4-1904 and 22-51-108, C.R.S.

#### **1 CCR 301-29. Rules for the Annual Inspection and Preventative Maintenance of School Transportation Vehicles**

##### **2251-R-1.00 Statement of Basis and Purpose**

The purpose of this rule is to establish annual inspection and preventative maintenance criteria to insure that Colorado school transportation vehicles are regularly maintained and inspected in the interest of the safety of the children transported in these vehicles.

*These rules are issued under the authority of 42-4-1904(1) C.R.S.*

**Federal Standards.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has minimum design and construction standards for many aspects of all vehicles, especially school buses, called Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). Starting July 1, 1977, these standards were expanded to encompass the concept of compartmentalization. Distance between seats is now less, seat backs are higher, and the metal framework is covered with foam padding. Also, the roof, sides, and floor are heavily reinforced to stay intact. In an accident, the student(s) would remain in their seating compartment. The padded seat back in front of

them provides a large area to spread the energy of their body, thus increasing the safety factor in the passenger compartment.

*These standards are covered more completely in Section H of the Administrator Reference Manual.*

**Local Policies.** The Local Board of Education may adopt and enforce policies consistent with existing statutes, state rules and regulations governing school transportation.

### **IMPORTANCE OF MANUAL**

This manual is designed to improve school bus driver competency in Colorado. Competent school bus drivers are needed to provide safe and efficient transportation for student riders. The vital link to safety, proper attitude, knowledge and skill must be developed through interest in safe driving. This is accomplished by improving the driver's ability to cope with the constantly changing driving environment through intensive pre-service training as well as continuing in-service training and activities. Safe transportation of students to and from school and school related activities is an integral part of a sound educational program.

### **IMPORTANCE OF THE DRIVER**

The successful bus driver observes all traffic signs, rules and regulations. The public expects top driving performance from members of the school bus driving force. The motoring public may relate improper driver actions to the total school program.

Five keys to being a successful school bus driver are:

- Competence
- Positive attitude
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Safety awareness

A professional driver is generally predictable in his/her behavior. The effective bus driver will be consistent in the management of student behavior. Students respect and obey a person they can count on to act in a controlled manner at all times. Students relate to someone who is friendly, yet firm. Injustice, not discipline, may lead students to become disruptive. The successful driver understands and complies with the rules governing the Operation of School Transportation Vehicles – 301-26, and the Colorado Traffic Laws.

Any organization whose members work as a team with mutual friendliness, interest, and respect will create an image that will be respected by the public.