

Section	Motor Vehicles
Standard	Vehicle Restrictions
Type	Required
Date Adopted	4/1/2017
Date Superseded	7/1/2020



Overview

It is well known that 11-15 passenger vans are dangerous and in many states are unlawful forms of student transportation.

15-passenger vans are particularly dangerous. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, in single vehicle accidents, 15-passenger vans roll over 52% of the time and 82% of those accidents result in at least one fatality.

Vehicle Capacity

The vehicle passenger rating is typically on a sticker pasted on the driver's-side door jamb. Passenger seating capacity is rated by the manufacturer and therefore remains unchanged even if seats are removed.

Federal Law

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Act) mandates that any new school bus sold for the purpose of carrying students to and from school or school related events must comply with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses.

Some of those safety standards include requirements for the rear view and cross view visibility (#111); school bus body structure (#220); strength of body panel joints (#221); and occupant protection for passenger seating and barriers (#222).

A school bus is a motor vehicle that has capacity of 11 or more people (including the driver).

A school is any private or public preprimary, primary, or secondary school. The Act does not apply to daycares, childcare centers, or preschools, including Head Start Programs, or to organizations providing religious education.

Federal law does not regulate motor vehicle use, State laws do.

State Law

Pennsylvania

Under Pennsylvania state law, it is unlawful to use 11-15 passenger vans for the transportation of school students unless the vehicle was grandfathered or meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses.

External Resources

[Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and Regulations](#)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration School Bus Safety](#)

Updated 5/16/2020

Requirements

1. Do not use any 15-passenger van for passenger transport unless the vehicle complies with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses.
2. Do not use any 11-14 passenger vans for transport of persons under age 18 or persons with disabilities unless the vehicle complies with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses.

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