

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CHAPTER 290-2-4
TRANSPORTATION

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290-2-4-.01	<u>Basic Principles for Pupil Transportation</u> . The State Department of Education has a definite responsibility for safe operation of school buses. The following are specific responsibilities for promoting safety in school transportation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The establishment of minimum safety specifications for school bus equipment. (b) Provision of training for school bus drivers. (c) Provision of leadership and training for local school officials on operating safe transportation programs. (d) Consultation with local officials on routing to utilize equipment in each attendance area effectively. (e) Provision of safety inspections for equipment and safety instruction for mechanics. (f) Provision of guidance to state and local safety officials on elimination of road hazards, bus traffic patterns, and accident investigations.

History: Amended 2-26-70, 7-30-75, 3-23-77, 7-11-78.

cf. Handbook for School Transportation Bulletin 1981, No. 9: Alabama School Bus Inspection Handbook; the Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses, and Alabama School Bus Drivers' Record and Report Book, 43rd Edition, 1982. A copy of these publications may be obtained without cost from the State Department of Education, Transportation Section, Montgomery, Alabama 36130.

290-2-4-.02 School Bus Specifications.

(1) Before any manufacturer or distributor may offer for sale any school bus chassis or bodies to be used for transporting students to public schools of Alabama said chassis or bodies shall meet all federal standards of construction for school buses and Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses. A copy of Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses (an annual publication, state year desired) may be obtained without cost from the State Department of Education, Transportation Section, Montgomery, Alabama, 36130.

(2) The State School Bus Equipment Inspector, State Department of Education, shall make periodic inspection of school bus chassis and bodies delivered to school boards to determine if state standards and specifications have been met.

(3) Operation of any school buses built before 1978 on a regular school bus route is prohibited effective July 1, 1996. No Alabama school bus inspection permit will be issued to allow pre-1978 school buses to transport students effective June 30, 1997. The operation of any pre-1978 school buses for the transportation of any student is prohibited effective July 1, 1997.

Author: Mr. Jimmy Baker

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama (1975), §§16-3-11, 16-4-4, 32-5-8.

History: Amended 2-26-70, 7-30-75, 7-6-83, 7-19-84, 8-9-84, emergency rule adopted 8-10-95, amended 9-12-96, effective 10-18-96.
cf. Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses.

290-2-4-.03 Purchase of Used Transportation Equipment. Used school buses purchased for use in the public schools in Alabama shall meet all state requirements for school buses that were in effect on the date the vehicle was manufactured. The state requirements are listed in the Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses (year of manufacture).

Author: Dr. Kenneth Wilson

Statutory Authority: Ala. Code §§ 16-4-4, 41-16-50 et. seq. (1975).

History: Amended 2-26-70, 7-30-75, 3-10-94.

cf. Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses.

290-2-4-.04 School Bus Driver Training and Certification and School Bus Inspection Program.

(1) The State Department of Education shall certify school bus drivers and conduct school bus safety inspections in accordance with state and federal law. As a part of these functions, the State Department of Education shall:

- (a) Provide qualified instructions for driver training,
- (b) Design written examinations,
- (c) Provide representatives for performance tests, and
- (d) Provide qualified inspectors for school bus equipment inspections.

(2) The State Superintendent of Education shall have the authority to revoke or suspend any bus driver's certificate for just cause. The State Superintendent of Education shall utilize the procedures for revoking teachers' certificates found in Ala. Admin. Code ch. 290-3-2 when exercising this authority.

Author: Dr. Kenneth Wilson

Statutory Authority: Ala. Code §§ 16-27-1, 16-27-3 through 5 (1975).

History: Amended 2-26-70, 7-30-75, 7-11-78, 3-10-94, 5-11-95, Effective 6-15-95.

cf. Alabama Minimum Specifications for School Buses.

290-2-4-.05 Local Transportation Supervisor. Each local transportation supervisor or manager shall be trained in school bus driving techniques by the State Department of Education and hold a valid Alabama School Bus driver's certification and a valid Commercial Driver's license with proper endorsements issued by the Department of Public Safety.

Author: William J. Rutherford

Statutory Authority: Ala. Code §§ 16-27-1 (1975)

History: New 7-11-78.

290-2-4-.06 Local Mechanic Certification.

A written test and a safety test shall be administered by State Department of Education personnel to local mechanics who perform safety inspections on school buses.

(1) The requirements for certification as a school bus mechanic shall be as follows:

- (a) Completion of a certified auto mechanic's apprenticeship; **OR**
- (b) Written proof of a least five year's experience as an auto or truck mechanic; **OR**
- (c) Written proof of three consecutive year's experience as a mechanic's helper in a school bus shop maintaining buses for pupil transportation.

(2) Any individual who meets one of the above qualifications or a combination of the qualifications approved by the director of State transportation and is hired as a school bus mechanic must within six months pass the school bus written test and safety test administered by State transportation personnel and each year thereafter must demonstrate to the State Inspector that he [or she] still maintains the skill, as well as the mental and physical capabilities, to perform all the tasks necessary to assure the safe maintenance of school buses.

(3) The testing is not purposed to test mechanic skills but to test the individual mechanic's knowledge and performance in braking system, exhaust system, steering mechanism, and signal system, etc. As a minimum requirement, each participating school system shall have one certified mechanic for each twenty school buses. A school bus shop foreman serving as a full-time bus shop employee in a school system with a total fleet size of less than 150 buses may be counted as a certified mechanic if the foreman also performs the duties and meets the requirements of a certified mechanic.

Author: William J. Rutherford
Statutory Authority: Ala. Code § 16-27-5 (1975).
History: New 3-23-77; amended 9-13-07, effective 10-18-07.

290-2-4-.07 School Bus Accident Reports. School bus accident reports shall be forwarded to the Transportation Section, Alabama State Department of Education, Montgomery, AL 36130.

Author: William J. Rutherford
Statutory Authority: Ala. Code §§16-4-4, §16-27-1 (1975).
History: Repromulgated 8-19-82.
cf. Alabama School Bus Driver's Record and Report Book, 43rd Edition, 1982.