

281—43.30(285) Standards for common carriers. This rule applies to any vehicle operated by a common carrier when used exclusively for student transportation to and from school. “Common carrier” refers to a person or entity in the business of transporting goods or people for hire as a public service.

43.30(1) Vehicles.

- a. The vehicles need not be painted yellow and black as required for conventional school buses.
- b. The vehicles, while transporting children to and from school, are to be equipped with temporary signs, located conspicuously on the front and back of the vehicle. The sign on the front is to have the words “School Bus” printed in black letters six inches high, on a background of National School Bus Yellow. The sign on the rear is to be painted National School Bus Yellow and have the words “School Bus” printed in black letters six inches high. The colors are to conform to those described within 281—subrule 44.3(10).

43.30(2) Drivers.

- a. The driver is to have an appropriate driver’s license issued by the Iowa department of transportation.
- b. The driver is to possess a school bus driver’s authorization issued by the Iowa department of education.
- c. The driver will receive training in accordance with state statutes and rules for school bus drivers.

43.30(3) Seating. Each passenger is to have a seat; standees are prohibited. No passenger may be present in the bed of a pickup when the vehicle is being operated.

43.30(4) Loading and unloading procedures.

- a. The vehicle is to pull close enough to the curb to prevent another vehicle from passing on its right side.
- b. If the vehicle is not equipped with flashing warning lights and stop arm, or if use of this equipment is not allowed by law, the pupils, on unloading, are to be instructed to remain at the curb until the bus has pulled away and it is safe for them to cross the street.

43.30(5) Inspection of vehicles.

a. Drivers are to perform pretrip inspections of their vehicles to determine if any defects or deficiencies exist that may affect the safety of the vehicle’s operation or result in its mechanical breakdown. The pretrip inspection report is to be submitted promptly to the person charged with maintenance of the vehicle. Any defects or deficiencies that merit an OOS (out of service) rating pursuant to department of education school bus inspection guidelines are to be repaired prior to use of the vehicle. All other defects or deficiencies should be repaired as soon as possible but do not bar the use of the vehicle.

b. Vehicles are to be inspected semiannually by personnel of the department of education in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 285.8(4).

43.30(6) Other provisions.

a. Local school officials are to provide the carrier with passenger conduct rules and the driver is to abide by the policies and procedures established by the local district.

b. Student instruction for passenger safety is the responsibility of the local school district as specified in rule 281—43.26(285).

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