

Title Special Update - Transportation Supplement - October 2025 Revised
TRANSPORTATION BY ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES
Code po8650
Status
Adopted December 13, 2007
Last Revised April 25, 2024

Revised Policy - Special Update

8650 - **TRANSPORTATION BY ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES** ~~OTHER THAN SCHOOL BUSES~~

When the transportation of students by school bus is not practical, the Board of Education may ~~The Board of Education shall~~ provide transportation to students via Board-owned and operated ~~or contracted alternative vehicles.~~ Alternative vehicles may include any passenger vehicle that is originally designed and constructed ~~for school vehicles other than school buses (hereinafter, "school vehicles") when the use of school buses is not reasonable. School vehicles shall only be used for~~ the transportation of nine (9) or fewer passengers, not including the driver, ~~in accordance with the original design and construction of the vehicle.~~ Students shall not be transported in larger passenger vehicles (e.g., non-conforming extended van-type vehicles) carrying ~~more than nine (9) passengers. ten (10) passengers or more (particularly twelve (12) to fifteen (15) passenger vans).~~

Students may not be transported between home and school on Multi-Function School Activity Buses ("MFSAB"). These vehicles meet school bus construction standards except that they do not have traffic control devices, and are prohibited by Federal regulations from transportation between home and school. MFSAB's may be used for non-routine transportation as listed in Policy 8640.

Similar to school buses, ~~alternative passenger vehicles~~ ~~school vehicles~~ shall be purchased, housed, and maintained by the Board for the transportation of resident students between their home areas and the schools of the District to which the students are assigned or to their nonpublic or community schools ~~or for other approved purposes. However, such use shall generally be limited to preschool children, special needs children, children inaccessible to school buses, students placed in alternative schools, and children enrolled in nonpublic or community schools in certain circumstances. School vehicles may also be used to transport students to and from field trips and/or other Board-approved school-related activities.~~

Passenger vehicles that meet the capacity restrictions above may be equipped with additional equipment for the purposes of safeguarding passengers and the driver including, but not limited to: barriers between the passenger and driver compartments, supplemental passenger restraint systems (such as five (5) point belts) and two-way radio equipment and vehicle tracking equipment. All vehicles used for special needs transportation shall be equipped with emergency seat-belt cutters that are accessible to the driver and/or aide assigned to the vehicle.

The Board authorizes the use of an **alternative** vehicle designed to carry nine (9) passengers or less, plus a driver, instead of a school bus to transport students to a chartered nonpublic or community school if all of the following apply:

- A. the number of students in the vehicle does not exceed nine (9);
- B. the District regularly transports students to a chartered nonpublic or community school;
- C. the driver has a valid driver's license, is accustomed to driving the vehicle, and meets statutory and administrative requirements for a motor van driver (with the exception of having a commercial driver's license);
- D. the driver may not stop on the roadway to load or unload passengers;
- E. the driver and all passengers are expected to comply with State laws regarding child and occupant restraint devices and safety while in the motor vehicle.

Individuals who meet statutory requirements to drive a school bus are qualified to drive **alternativeschool** vehicles. Vehicles shall be inspected **prior to each use for student transportation by the driver, and** not less than two (2) times each year by a qualified mechanic who will determine whether the vehicle is safe to transport students.

Students who are transported by **an alternativeschool** vehicle are expected to conduct themselves in the same manner required of students transported by school bus and shall be subject to all applicable disciplinary rules.

All **alternativeschool** vehicle drivers employed by the Board shall complete the required Ohio School Van Driver training program prior to transporting students **by van**, meet all other qualification requirements, and comply with the Ohio Pupil Transportation and Safety Rules and applicable Board policies and guidelines relative to student transportation. No individual shall be employed as a school **vanvehicle** driver if the individual has not received a certificate certifying that the driver is at least **(-) eighteen (18) (x)** twenty-one (21) **END OF OPTION** years of age with a minimum of two (2) years of driving experience, and is qualified physically and otherwise (O.A.C. 3301-83-06(F)) for the position. **x]** Only authorized Board employees **(x)** or contractors employed by an agency that provides services to the Board **[END OF OPTION]** may operate and transport students via school **vanvehicle. x] VanVehicle** drivers do not need a commercial driver's license.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing and implementing the appropriate administrative guidelines for this policy.

~~EDITING NOTE: House Bill 54 and House Bill 96 were enacted in 2025 and redefined the capacity of alternative vehicles in Ohio as up to twelve (12) passengers. Current Ohio law notwithstanding, U.S. Code and federal regulations prohibit the sale and use of vehicles for school transportation that are designed for more than ten (10) occupants, unless that vehicle meets the construction standards for a school bus.]~~

Legal

A.C. 3301-83-19, 3301-83-06(F)

R.C. 3327.01, 3327.10, 4511.01, 4511.76

Cross References

po8600 - TRANSPORTATION

po8600.04 - BUS AND ALTERNATIVE VEHICLE DRIVER CERTIFICATION

po8640 - TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-ROUTINE TRIPS

po8660 - INCIDENTAL TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE