



Oklahoma Student Transportation FAQ's

1. What is a school vehicle?

Vehicles having a seating capacity of fewer than TEN passengers, excluding the operator, are not required to meet the state minimum standards for school buses. [OAC 210:30-5-6 \(a\) \(2\)](#)

2. What is a school bus?

Transportation equipment used to transport TEN or more public school children at one time shall meet all the standards required for TYPES A, B, C, and D buses. [OAC 210:30-5-6 \(a\) \(1\)](#)

3. What is a Multi-Functional School Activity Bus (MFSAB)?

Under [NHTSA's regulations](#), a multifunction school activity bus (MFSAB) is defined as “a school bus whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops.” An MFSAB must meet all FMVSSs applicable to school buses except those requiring the installation of traffic control devices (flashing lights and stop arms).

4. When is a CDL required for driving a school vehicle?

CDL required when operating any of the below CMVs 49 CFR 383.91:

1. Class A Combination Vehicle - having a gross combination weight rating or gross combination weight of 26,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater, inclusive of a towed unit(s) with a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds, whichever is greater; or
2. Class B Heavy Straight Vehicle - having a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater; or
3. Class C Small Vehicle that does not meet Class A or B requirements but that either
 - Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or
 - Is of any size and is used in the transportation of hazardous materials as defined in this section.

[Endorsements 49 CFR 383.93](#)

5. Are driver's required to have both the “P” passenger and “S” school bus endorsement if they are not transporting students when operating a “school bus,” as defined in [49 CFR §383.5](#)?

No. Only drivers actually transporting pre-primary, primary, or secondary school students from home to school, from school to home, or to and from school sponsored events in a school bus are required to have both the “P” and “S” endorsements. Only a “P” endorsement is required by drivers delivering school buses from the manufacturer, by mechanics, and other drivers operating empty school buses, and by drivers transporting students and/or adults to and from events that are not sponsored by the school.

6. Is it legal to transport students in a school vehicle that has a passenger

seating capacity of 11-15 passengers?

No. The use of vehicles with a manufacture capacity rating for 11 and above is illegal to transport students, unless the vehicle is adapted to meet full safety standards of a school bus, including lights or arm bar for loading passengers. [Federal law 49 U.S.C. 30112](#) prohibits manufacturers from selling these vehicles with the purpose of transporting students.

7. Where do I find the passenger or GVWR rating for my vehicle?

The rated capacity can be found on the Tire and Loading information sticker which is normally located on the inside driver's door jam.

8. What bus/vehicles can transport students without a CDL?

- **14 passengers or less rated school bus** or 26,000 GVWR or less rated school bus, do not require a CDL. Drivers do need a valid driver's license, MVR, 4 hours professional development, and OSDE new driver training. It is legal to transport students to and from school, and to school activities.
- **14 passengers or less rated activity bus** or 26,000GVWR or less rated activity bus, do not require a CDL. Drivers do need a valid driver's license, MVR, 4 hours professional development, and OSDE new driver training. It is legal to transport students whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops.
- **10 passengers or less rated vehicle**, do not require a CDL. Drivers do need a valid driver's license. An annual MVR, annual 4 hours professional development over transporting students, and the [OSDE new driver training course](#), are recommended for the safety and protection of students, staff, and districts, by the National Association of State Directors of Student Transportation.



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