

**TITLE 13. PUBLIC SAFETY  
CHAPTER 13. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – SCHOOL BUSES**

**ARTICLE 3. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR 11 TO 15 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PASSENGER VEHICLES**

**Section**

<u>R13-13-301.</u>	<u>Definitions</u>
<u>R13-13-302.</u>	<u>Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Equipment</u>
<u>R13-13-303.</u>	<u>Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Operation</u>
<u>R13-13-304.</u>	<u>Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Drivers and Instructors</u>

**ARTICLE 3. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR 11 TO 15 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PASSENGER VEHICLES**

**R13-13-301. Definitions**

In addition to the definitions in R13-13-101, in this Article and unless otherwise specified:

“925 Driver” means a driver certified to only drive a 925 Vehicle certified under this Article and A.R.S. § 15-925.

“925 Vehicle” means any type or model of vehicle that is designed to carry at least 11 but not more than 15 passengers according to A.R.S. § 15-925 is designated as a school bus but it is not a Type A or Type B school bus as defined in R13-13-101.

“Class D driver license” means the same as in A.R.S. § 28-3101(A)(4).

“Designed to Carry” means the total number of seats the manufacturer designed and built the body of the vehicle to transport persons and does not mean the total number of seats in place.

“Primary Roadway” means any roadway with a speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour.

“Multifunction School Activity Bus” (MFSAB) means the same as in 49 CFR 571.3 dated September 29, 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the federal government at <https://www.ecfr.gov/> and the Department.

**R13-13-302. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Equipment**

**A.** A Type A or Type B school bus shall comply with R13-13-106 through R13-13-112 with the following exceptions:

1. Any Type A or Type B MFSAB in service prior to July 1, 2025 that is painted any shade of white may be used as a school bus up to but not beyond July 1, 2027 if equipped with the following:
  - a. An eight lamp alternately flashing signal lamps as specified in R13-13-107(17).
  - b. A stop signal arm as specified in R13-13-107(31).
2. The removal of seats to meet the requirements of a 925 Vehicle is prohibited and does not reclassify the vehicle to one that would qualify as a 925 Vehicle.
3. Any Type A or B MFSAB retrofitted under this section shall be inspected by the Department in accordance with R13-13-108.

**B.** 925 Vehicle Standards.

1. Certification, Seating and Crash Protection:
  - a. Shall meet the requirements of 49 CFR 571.222 dated September 29, 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the federal government at <https://www.ecfr.gov/> and the Department;
  - b. Vehicles with labels affixed by the manufacturer stating *Not A School Bus* or that have similar language indicating the vehicle is not certified for use as a school bus are prohibited. Removing, relocating, altering or defacing any certification, compliance or advisory label or plate affixed by the manufacturer is prohibited;
  - c. Shall have seatbelts installed and functioning in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications;

- d. The removal of seats from a vehicle to meet the requirements of a 925 Vehicle is prohibited and does not reclassify the vehicle to one that would qualify as a 925 Vehicle; and,
  - e. The manufacturer shall permanently apply a certification label or plate stating the rated occupancy the vehicle is designed to carry in terms of the driver and number of passengers. Removing, relocating, altering or defacing any certification label or plate affixed by the manufacturer is prohibited.
2. Tires and Wheels.
- a. Shall meet the requirements of 49 CFR 393.75 dated September 29, 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the federal government at <https://www.ecfr.gov/> and the Department.
  - b. Shall not have tires including the spare tire over six years old from the date of manufacture marked on the tire.
  - c. Shall be of the same brand and model including spare tires.
  - d. May be equipped with a spare tire. If equipped, the spare tire shall be mounted as designed by the manufacturer.
3. Color and Markings:
- a. Shall be painted National School Bus Yellow as specified in the National Congress on School Transportation, National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures dated May 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the National Congress on School Transportation at <https://nasdpts.org/NCST-NSTSP> and the Department.
  - b. The exterior top may be painted white to reflect heat.
  - b. Shall have a reflective strip at least four inches tall of alternating white and yellow two-inch stripes set at a 45° angle that stretches across the lower rear of the vehicle and terminating no more than four inches from the outside edges of the vehicle.
  - c. Shall have on both sides of the vehicle the name of the school or the name of the private company in a minimum of three-inch up to five-inch block, black letters.
  - d. Shall have on the rear of the vehicle the lettering *STUDENT TRANSPORTATION* in a minimum three-inch up to five-inch block, black letters.
  - e. Shall have a vehicle number displayed in a minimum three-inch up to five-inch block, black numbers in the following locations:
    - (1) On the lower left or right area of the back of the vehicle; and,
    - (2) On the left and right side of the vehicle at a point forward of the vertical centerline of the driver and front passenger doors.
4. Lighting:
- a. Shall be equipped with a high-mounted, 360-degree, amber-flashing light centered on the rear roof line that is activated by the driver at railroad grade crossings.
  - b. The light shall have a flash rate equal to or greater than the vehicle's turn signal flash rate.
  - c. The light shall meet the minimum visibility standard of stop lamps in A.R.S. § 28-939.
5. Alternative Fuels:
- a. 925 Vehicles may use alternative fuels other than diesel or gasoline.
  - b. 925 Vehicles shall comply with the requirements in Article 2 if using alternative fuels.
6. A 925 Vehicle shall be inspected and certified by the Department in accordance with R13-13-108 as applicable for the type of vehicle.

**R13-13-303. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Operation**

**A.** A 925 Driver shall comply with the equipment operations checks as specified in R13-13-108(D), (E), (F), (G).

**B.** Loading and unloading of passengers.

- 1. Shall not stop on a highway, interstate or primary roadway to load or unload passengers.

2. Shall stop in low-traffic volume areas with speed limits at or below 35 miles per hour; such as, residential driveways, residential roadway curb areas in front of homes and parking lots.
  3. When loading or unloading passengers from a 925 Vehicle, the 925 Driver shall place the vehicle in park, activate the four-way amber (hazard) flashers and activate the high-mounted flashing light specified in R13-13-302(B)(4).
  4. Passengers shall not load or unload on the traffic side of the vehicle.
  5. The 925 Driver shall comply with R13-13-104(B)(9 through 14).
  6. For railroad grade crossings, the 925 Driver shall comply with R13-13-104(B)(15) with the addition of a requirement to activate the high-mounted flashing light as specified in R13-13-302(B)(4). For vehicles without a service door in R13-13-104(B)(15)(d), the right front window shall be fully opened or fully rolled down.
  7. When loading or unloading a special needs passenger, the 925 Driver shall secure the passenger and wheelchair as specified in R13-13-105.
- C.** The 925 Driver shall comply with the time requirements as specified in R13-13-104(C).
- D.** The 925 Driver shall comply with the record-keeping and other requirements as specified in R13-13-104(D), (E).
- E.** Seatbelts and Restraints.
1. The 925 Driver shall not remove the vehicle from park until the driver and all passengers are properly wearing their seatbelts or properly restrained.
  2. All 925 Drivers and passengers shall properly wear or use all safety belts and restraints unless loading or unloading from a 925 Vehicle.
- F.** Doors equipped with child safety locks shall not have the lock engaged allowing the door to be opened from the inside.

**R13-13-304. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Drivers and Instructors**

- A.** All 925 Drivers shall comply with and be subject to R13-13-102 and R13-13-108(D) with the exception of the following:
1. A commercial driver license (CDL) is not required unless the vehicle's gross weight requires a CDL according to A.R.S. § 28-3228(C)(4)(b);
  2. An Arizona "P" passenger or "S" school bus endorsement is not required on an Arizona Class D driver license;
  3. 925 Driver performance examinations for equipment not found on a 925 Vehicle may be waived by the Department or if similar functioning equipment exists the Department may require an examination depending on how the 925 Vehicle is equipped; and,
  4. At a minimum a valid Arizona Class D driver license is required. The applicant shall provide an Arizona driver license number or if applying based on an equivalent or greater valid driver license from another state according to A.R.S. § 32-4302, provide the name of the state, the class of license and the license number.
- B.** Behind-the-wheel and classroom instructors of 925 Drivers shall comply with all of the requirements in R13-13-103. A valid CDL is required.
- C.** CDL Certification and Derating
1. Drivers holding a valid CDL and a valid CDL school bus certification according to Article 1 are cross-qualified as a 925 Driver. No additional training or certification is required.
  2. CDL drivers certified in Article 1 desiring to relinquish their CDL and derate their certification to only a 925 Driver may do so by notifying the Department. The notification shall:
    - a. Be made to the Department within 10 business days via electronic mail to schoolbus@azdps.gov or via postal mail Attention: Student Transportation Unit, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638.
    - b. Occur before the CDL and the requirements to maintain a CDL are relinquished; and,
    - c. Occur before the Article 1 certification expires or is cancelled due to a lack of a CDL.
  3. Derated CDL Drivers
    - a. The driver shall maintain at least a valid Class D license.

- b. No additional training is required.
- c. The derated CDL certification shall remain valid until the normal expiration. Upon the normal expiration, the driver shall then meet the 925 Driver certification requirements of Article 3.