

UNIT SIXTEEN – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION GLOSSARY

School Transportation Unit

revised April 2010

This glossary includes the more common terms used in student transportation.

It is very important to improve communication among ourselves and people outside the industry to understand the meaning of the common terms used. This glossary is a beginning to improve the understanding of many of the terms used.

Activity Bus refers to a former school transportation vehicle category referring to large non-school bus vehicles purchased specifically for activity trips. These vehicles were required to have the wording ACTIVITY BUS on the front and rear. See previous revisions of CDE Minimum Standards, 301-25, for more details.

Activity Trip transportation provided that does not fit the definition of a route or run. Can be field trips or athletic trips.

Agreement is payment to a service provider furnishing a scheduled service transporting students at least once per week.

Annually means to the last day of the month twelve months later.

Appropriate describes what would be suitable for a specific type of vehicle, for example; suitable driver training for a small multifunction bus as compared to a small vehicle may be based on the specific features of that vehicle.

Capacity is the number of designated seating positions provided in a new bus per manufacturer's body/seating plan. This is also known as Equipped Seating Capacity.

When used in reference to a school or multifunction bus, the term Capacity refers to passenger count only. When used in reference to a small vehicle the term Capacity refers to both passenger and driver count. For example: a 15 capacity van has 14 passenger seats and the driver for 15.

The term Passenger Capacity may be used to clarify that the number is passenger count only.

CDE refers to the School Transportation Unit, Colorado Department of Education.

Character refers to the personality and work ethic that determines the type of school bus driver an employee will be. The district determines the type of character traits desired.

District Authorized Driver refers to a person that the school district has authorized to operate a district vehicle without that person being an employee of the district. The district must verify that this person meets the applicable Rules for the Operation of School Transportation Vehicle, 301-26.

Driver Qualification File (DQF) refers to a collection of the CDE required documentation to meet the route operator requirements.

Inspecting Site refers to the CDE certified garage or facility where the school transportation vehicles are annually inspected. This site may be owned and operated by the district or an outside facility.

Inspector refers to the CDE certified annual inspector who certifies the annual inspection of a school transportation vehicle.

Multifunction Bus shall be a motor vehicle, built to federal multifunctional school activity bus standards and Colorado school bus standards with the exceptions listed in the CDE Minimum Standards, 301-25, designed for transporting students. These buses may be used to carry students on activity trips. Multifunction buses of 15 or less capacity may also be used on route.

OEM refers to original equipment manufacturer.

Para-Professional is a district employee who assists on a school transportation vehicle.

Preventative Maintenance refers to scheduled regular maintenance and inspection performed on a school transportation vehicle.

Pre-Service is the training time from when a driver is hired to when the driver is qualified to transport students.

Public refers to an agency or a structure operated for general use governed by an elected board.

Roadway is defined in Colorado statute 42-1-102 (85) as "that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder, . . ." In other words, the traffic lane from the centerline to the fog line.

Route is one or more runs assembled as a package. A route is normally operated by the same school transportation vehicle and driver.

Retarder refers to a secondary braking system meeting CDE Minimum Standards, 301-25.

Run is a single designated course regularly traveled by a school transportation vehicle transporting students home to school, school to school, and school to home.

Safe refers to reducing the hazards of a specific activity to an acceptable level.

School Bus - A motor vehicle built to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and the CDE Minimum Standards, 301-25, designed for carrying students on either routes or activity trips.

TYPE A-- school bus is a conversion or body constructed upon a van-type compact truck or a front-section vehicle chassis, designed for carrying passengers with driver side door and GVWR of 21,000 pounds or less.

TYPE B-- school bus is a conversion or body constructed and installed upon a van or front-section vehicle chassis, or stripped chassis, with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, designed for carrying passengers. Part of the engine is beneath and/or behind the windshield and beside the driver's seat. The entrance door is behind the front wheels.

TYPE C--Type "C" school bus is a body installed upon a flat back cowl chassis with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, designed for carrying passengers. The entire engine is in front of the windshield and the entrance door is behind the front wheels.

TYPE D--Type "D" school bus is a body installed upon a chassis, with the engine mounted in the front or rear, with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, designed for carrying passengers. The engine may be behind the windshield and beside the driver's seat; it may be at the rear of the bus, behind the rear wheels. The entrance door is ahead of the front wheels.

School District refers to the public school district including charter schools or private carrier under contract to a public school district subject to the CDE transportation regulations.

School Transportation Vehicle includes school bus, small vehicle, multifunction bus, and activity bus used in the operation of transporting students as defined in the CDE Minimum Standards, 1 CCR 301-25.

School Year is from July 1 to June 30 of the next year.

Seating Capacity is the number of designated seating positions provided in a vehicle, including the driver's position. In determining seating capacity, each wheelchair securement location shall be counted as four (4) designated seating positions.

Small Vehicle is a motor vehicle that does not meet the requirements of a Type A, B, C, or D school bus. A small vehicle is designed for normal use by the general public. Students may be transported by a small vehicle on route or activity trips.

Special Needs Student is any student requiring an accommodation. This may range from a gifted and talented student to a student who is severely disabled.

Storage Space as used in student transportation refers to a section of traffic lane used to allow vehicles to stop while waiting to turn or between railroad tracks.

Students with Disabilities refers to individuals who have a physical/behavioral/mental impairment that limits a major life activity.

Tiering is a routing term indicating how many schools a route vehicle normally transports to during the morning or afternoon. For example, a 3-tier system normally refers to separate runs to an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school.