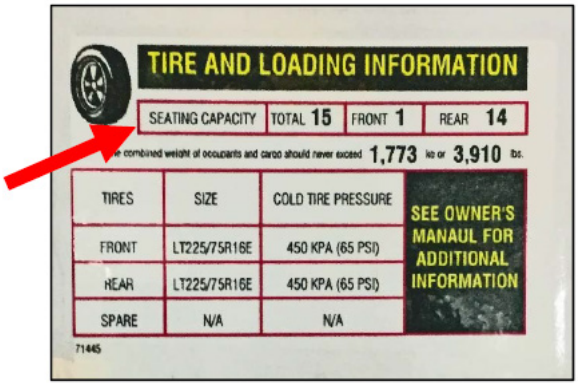
NON-CDL VEHICLES
School Vehicles Used to Transport Students: What is Allowed?

The rated capacity of a school bus is determined by the original manufacture and can be found on a sticker or plate inside the bus. The bus is certified by the manufacturer for the rated capacity and cannot be changed or altered by anyone other than the manufacturer. The rated capacity directly affects the compartmentalization of the school bus.

14 Passenger Rated School Buses

Drivers operating a yellow school bus rated for 14 passengers or less plus the driver and the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 26,000 pounds (lbs) or less are not required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). These drivers do not fall under the federal mandate for drug & alcohol testing. Districts may elect to have a policy requiring drivers to submit for drug & alcohol testing.



GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) 26,000 lbs or less

Oklahoma State Department of Education minimum requirements:

- Valid Driver's License
- Current MVR
- 4 hours annual professional development (related to driving a bus)
- Completion of SDE New Bus Driver Training

Allowed with district policy:

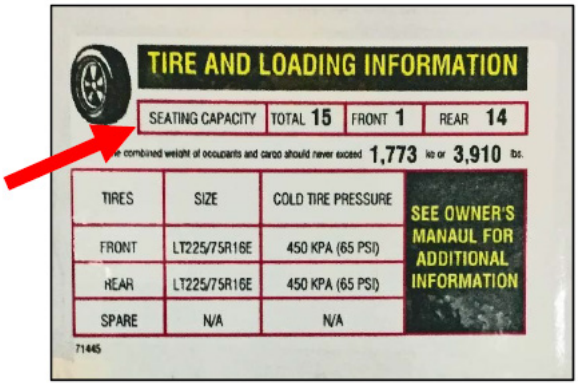
- Current Physical (SDE form for Class D licensure)
- Drug & Alcohol testing

Additional Information:

- Can be used on a route to transport students to and from school
- Can be used for activity trips

14 Passenger Rated Activity Bus

Drivers operating a multi-function school bus rated for 14 passengers or less plus the driver and the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 26,000 pounds (lbs) or less are not required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). These drivers do not fall under the federal mandate for drug & alcohol testing. Districts may elect to have a policy requiring drivers to submit for drug & alcohol testing.



Oklahoma State Department of Education minimum requirements:

- Valid Driver's License
- Current MVR
- 4 hours annual professional development (related to driving a bus)
- Completion of New Bus Driver non-CDL course

Allowed with district policy:

- Current Physical (SDE form for Class D licensure)
- Drug & Alcohol testing

Additional Information:

- **Cannot** be used on a route to transport student to and from school
- Can be used for activity trips

12+ Passenger Rated Vehicle Information

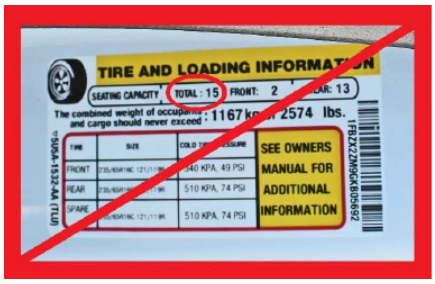
The use of vehicles with a manufacture capacity rating for 12 and above are illegal to transport students.

Federal law prohibits the use of vans or other vehicles with a seating capacity from the manufacture of 12 or more. Substantial penalties for schools, rental agencies and vehicle dealerships can occur of these vehicles are purchased or rented for use to transport students.

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

Note: The passenger rating is determined by the vehicle manufacture and cannot be changed by anyone. It is illegal to remove seats from these vehicles to meet the mandated passenger requirement for student transportation. This would apply to both a school and/or dealership if the intent is to circumvent the mandated passenger rating for school transportation.

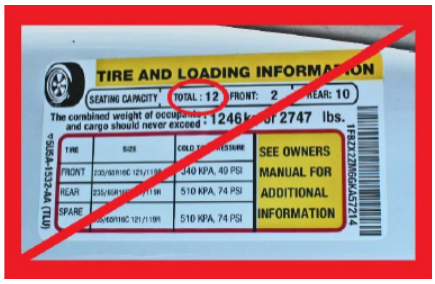
Pictured below is a 2016, 15 passenger rated Ford Transit Van. It is illegal under federal law to use this vehicle for student transport.



Additional Information:

- **Cannot** be used on a route to transport students to and from school
- **Cannot** be used to transport students for activity trips

Pictured below is a 2016, 15 passenger rated Ford Transit Van. It is illegal under federal law to use this vehicle for student transport.

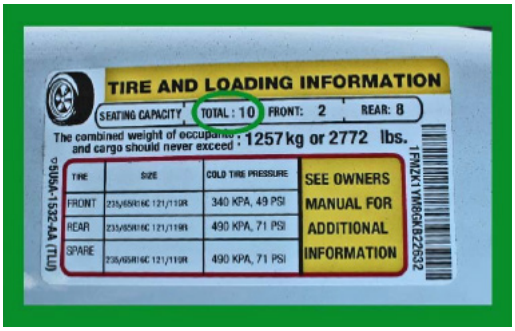


Additional Information:

- **Cannot** be used on a route to transport students to and from school
- **Cannot** be used to transport students for activity trips

10 Passenger Rated Vehicle

Pictured below is a 2016, 10 passenger rated van. This van is legal for student transport. A valid driver's license is required.



Oklahoma State Department of Education minimum requirements:

- Valid Driver's License
- Current MVR
- 4 hours annual professional development (related to driving a bus)
- Completion of New Bus Driver Non-CDL course

Allowed with district policy:

- Current Physical (SDE form for Class D licensure)
- Drug & Alcohol testing

Additional Information:

- Can be used on a route to transport students to and from school
- Can be used for activity trips

OKLAHOMA Education