

# **15-Passenger Van Safety Actions Update**

**April 2008**

## Appendix I

### Survey of State Laws on 12- and 15-Passenger Vans Used for School Transportation\*

While most States require the use of school buses to transport children to and from school and school-related events, some States do not.

- 29 states have laws or regulations that prohibit the use of vans for transporting public school students to and from school and school-related activities.
- 12 states have laws and regulations that prohibit the use of vans for transporting public school students to and from school, but allow the use of vans for school activity trips. [Note: One state has passed legislation that prohibits the use of vans for activity trips.]
- 9 states allow the use of vans for transporting public school students to and from school and school-related activities. [Note: One of these nine states has passed legislation that will not allow the use of vans to transport students after June 1, 2008. Another state has a statewide, self-insurance pool that will not insure vans used to transport students.] In many states, the laws and regulations that apply to public schools may not apply to private and church-sponsored schools.

State	To & From School Permitted	To & From School-related Events Permitted	Comments
Alabama	No *	No *	*State laws do not apply to private schools.
Alaska	No *	Yes *	*State laws do not apply to private schools.
Arizona	No	Yes	
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	
California	No	No	
Colorado	Yes *	Yes *	*State-wide, self-insurance pool for school districts will not insure vans.
Connecticut	No	Yes	
Delaware	No	No	
Florida	No *	No *	*Does not apply to private schools or companies that contract directly with parents.
Georgia	No *	Yes *	*State laws do not apply to private schools.
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	
Idaho	No *	Yes	*State statute allows for some exceptions, e.g., students with special needs in remote locations without school buses. * State laws do not apply to private schools.
Illinois	No	Yes	
Indiana	No *	No **	*Special education students may be transported in vans. ** State laws do not apply to private schools.
Iowa	No	No	
Kansas	No	No	
Kentucky	No	No	
Louisiana	No *	No *	*State laws do not apply to private schools.
Maine	No	No *	*Private schools are exempt from this state regulation.
Maryland	No	No	State law not clear on private schools.
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	
Michigan	No	No	

State	To & From School Permitted	To & From School-related Events Permitted	Comments
Minnesota	No	No	
Mississippi	Yes *	Yes *	*State law does not prohibit the use of vans but Department of Education will not approve van purchases.
Missouri	No *	Yes *	*State laws do not apply to private schools.
Montana	No *	No *	*State laws do not apply to private schools.
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	
Nevada	No	Yes	
New Hampshire	No	No	
New Jersey	No	No	
New Mexico	No	No	
New York	No	No	
North Carolina	No *	Yes *	*Private schools not covered by state rules.
North Dakota	Yes *	Yes *	*Not allowed after June 1, 2008. Vans can no longer be purchased for these purposes after March 1, 2003. State laws do not apply to private schools.
Ohio	No	No	
Oklahoma	No	No	
Oregon	No	No	
Pennsylvania	No *	No *	*Unless the van was registered as a bus in Pennsylvania prior to March 1, 1993, or titled to a public private or parochial school prior to March 1, 1993, and was registered as a bus to such school prior to September 15, 1993.
Rhode Island	No *	No	*Child care organizations are exempt and can use vans for transportation to and from school.
South Carolina	No	No	
South Dakota	No	No	
Tennessee	No	Yes	
Texas	No *	Yes	*Private schools not covered by state rules.
Utah	No	No	
Vermont	Yes	Yes	
Virginia	No *	No *	*State laws only apply to public schools.
Washington	No *	No *	*State rules only apply to public schools.
West Virginia	No	Yes	
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	
Wyoming	No *	No *	*State rules only apply to public schools.

\*The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services surveyed its State Director members to determine the current state-by-state laws/regulations on the use of 12- and 15-passenger vans to transport students to and from school or on school-related activity trips.