

Transportation Updates Recap – NSTA Conference



1. Pupil Transportation Report

- **Due Date:** June 15th
- **Correction Window:** Open through **June 30th** (only for adjustments or unlocking)
- **Action:** Log in and complete the report ASAP if not already done.

2. Annual Inspection

- **Posted:** Now available on the website (link was shared in the meeting chat)
- **New Fillable Forms Coming:**
 - Pre-Trip Inspection Form
 - Annual Inspection Form
 - Mechanic Qualification Letter
 - **Expected by:** End of this week
 - **Location:** Same website as above

3. Inspection Form Completion – Important Reminders

- **Do NOT** draw a line from top to bottom to mark items.
- **Each item must be individually checked:**
 -  Checked
 -  Not applicable
- Incomplete forms or line-drawn forms will trigger a warning letter.

4. Mechanic Qualification Clarification

- **Mechanics must be "Qualified" – not necessarily "Certified":**
 - Example: A farmer with 30+ years working on equipment is considered qualified.
 - Key concern: Avoid having unqualified car mechanics inspect school buses.
- **If unsure:** Contact Stephanie via call, text, or email.

5. Questions?

- Reach out anytime with questions.
- Matt is also available for annual inspection support.
- Contact options: email, call, text – you have her cell number.

Follow-Up Discussion Highlights – NSTA Call

Question from Tammie Zitek – Pupil Transportation Report

- **Question:** For the section on public school students who are either non-residents or ineligible — does this include both route and activity trips?
- **Clarification from Stephanie:**
 - Count only students who *live in your district* and are transported by your district.
 - Students who live *outside* your district should be counted by *their* district.
 - This is similar to your census report approach.

Additional Clarification (Matt Quiring & Stephanie)

- **4-Mile Rule:** Students **within 4 miles** of the school are *not required* to be transported.
 - School districts may choose to provide transportation, but it's optional.
 - **Only count transported students who reside in your district**, regardless of the 4-mile rule.
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Form Submissions

- Stephanie is **still reviewing emailed forms**.
 - She's currently on emails from **Wednesday of last week**.
 - If you haven't heard back, **you will** — she hasn't forgotten, it's just taking time.
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New Initiative: Stop Arm Media Campaign

- **Issue:** High number of **stop arm violations**, especially **early in the school year**.
- **Proposal:** A **statewide media campaign** to increase awareness (possibly on TV/news).
 - Coordination with **Nebraska State Patrol (NSP)** is in progress.
 - Targeted to launch at the **start of the school year**.

NEW FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION STANDARD – 10-PASSENGER LIMIT

Approved at National Congress Hearing

New Passenger Limit:

- **Maximum = 10 TOTAL occupants**
 - 9 passengers + 1 driver
- **Previous misguidance** suggesting 10 *plus* driver is **no longer valid**.

Acceptable Vehicle Types:


1. **Minivans** (e.g., Chrysler Pacifica, Toyota Sienna)
2. **SUVs**
3. **Minibuses** – *14 passengers or fewer*
 - Do **not** require a CDL
 - Often overlooked but fully compliant

No Longer Acceptable:

- **11- or 12-passenger vans**
 - Must be phased out.
 - Cannot simply remove a seat to comply.

Seat Removal Must Be Certified:

- Dealers **cannot** legally remove seats to lower capacity.
- Must be done by a **Second Stage Manufacturer** with recertification:
 - **Masters Transportation**
 - **Mobility Works**
- These companies:
 - Remove the original floor
 - Rebuild and certify as **10-passenger Multi-Purpose Vehicles (MPVs)**

 **Uncertified seat removals = major liability risk** in the event of an accident. Investigators will reference the **original Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MSO)**.

Implementation Timeline:

- National standards posted: *End of July*
- Nebraska rule revision begins after that
- Awaiting Governor Pillen's sign-off
- No sunset date (compliance deadline) yet, but:

 Start planning now if your district uses non-compliant vans.

How to Check Vehicle Compliance:

- Look for the "Vehicle Classification" label (inside driver-side door post)
- Acceptable classifications:
 - MPV (Multi-Purpose Vehicle) – e.g., vans, SUVs, minivans
- Not acceptable:
 - Bus (especially if labeled "not a school bus")

 If it says "Bus" → NOT approved for this rule.

Updated Summary: 10-Passenger Vehicle Compliance Rules

Vehicle Options Allowed (as of new national rule):

- Minivans (e.g., Chrysler Pacifica, Toyota Sienna)
- SUVs
- Minibuses (14 passengers or fewer, *non-CDL*)
- Upfitted vans, but with strict conditions (see below)

Can You Certify an Existing Larger Van?

Only in rare cases. Most existing 11–15 passenger vans (like Chevy Express or GMC Savana) **cannot** be recertified.

- Possible Exception:
 - Late-model Ford Transit
 - Excellent condition (e.g., low mileage like 25,000 mi)
 - Not older, but condition is key
 - Must contact Second Stage Manufacturer directly (e.g., Masters Transportation)

🔧 **Important:** These upgrades are **case-by-case**, not guaranteed.

🕒 Timeline / Sunset Window:

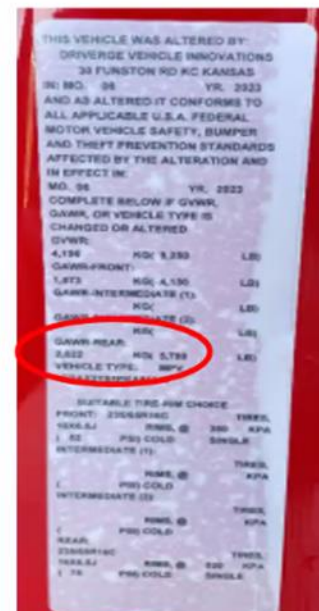
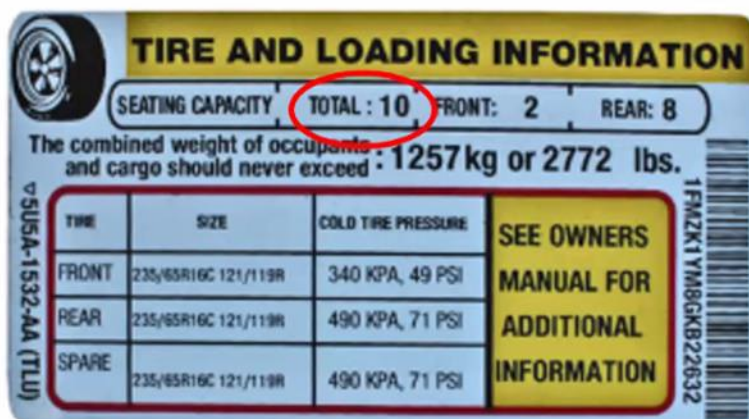
- **End of July 2025:** National standards expected to post
- **May 2026** (estimated): Final state approval/sign-off (by Governor)
- **Proposed sunset window** (not finalized):
 - **Additional 1–2 years after approval** (likely **2027–2028** for full compliance)

📌 **Bottom line:** You likely have at least **2 years** (possibly **3**) to fully transition non-compliant vehicles, but **start planning now**.

📁 Next Steps for Schools/Districts with 11–12 Passenger Vans:

1. **Inventory current fleet** and identify non-compliant vehicles.
2. **Check eligibility for recertification** — only *late-model Ford Transits* in *excellent* shape might qualify.
3. **Contact Masters Transportation or Mobility Works** for assessment.
4. **Begin budgeting for replacements** — consider rotating older vans out ahead of the rule change.
5. **Document all efforts and communications** for compliance tracking.

What You Need To Look For On The Van:



National & State School Transportation Policy Updates (Summer 2025)

New National Guidance – Physical Handling of Students

- Drivers should **NOT** lift or carry students into or out of vehicles, except in emergencies.
 - Due to:
 - **OSHA lifting restrictions**
 - **Uneven school bus steps (non-code-compliant)**
 - **Risk of injury to both driver and student**
 - **Use lifts whenever possible** for accessibility and dignity.
 - **Social/emotional consideration:** peers seeing a student being carried may impact the student's self-esteem.
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Activity Travel Plans – New Guidance Coming

- **National forms and templates will be released soon**
 - Plans should include:
 - **Emergency contact info**
 - **Medical info** (e.g., allergies, special needs)
 - **Driver & aide awareness protocols**
 - Goal: Ensure staff are well-prepared and informed during extracurricular transport.
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Drug & Alcohol Policy – Required for All Drivers

- Applies to **CDL and non-CDL drivers**.
 - Districts must:
 - **Create a policy**
 - Include expectations (e.g., what happens after a DUI, even if off-duty)
 - **Drivers must review and sign off**
 - Provide **alternate duties** (when appropriate) for drivers under investigation
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New Assurance Statements – Coming July 2025

Districts must **sign and submit** that they are:

- Conducting **pre-trip inspections**
- Performing **annual vehicle inspections**
- Requiring the **2-hour refresher training** before school begins

This will later be integrated into the **Pupil Transportation Report** (2026 cycle)

2-Hour Refresher Course

- **Updated version launching July 2025**
 - Will be available on the Safety Center website
 - Amanda Ransdell will email the registration link when ready
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Administrator Days: Drug & Alcohol Session

- **Repeat session** of last year's well-received **Drug & Alcohol Training**
 - Hosted by:
 - **Nebraska State Patrol**
 - **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**
 - **Matt Quiring**
 - **Booth/Table Available** (outside vendor area) for Q&A if you miss the session
 - **Amanda and Stephanie** will also be available during the conference
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Next Zoom Meeting:

- **Date:** Monday, **September 15th, 2025 1:00pm**
- **Zoom link** and **fillable forms** will be posted on the website by the end of this week