

List of Revisions – 2025 School Bus Specifications

Top changes:

1. All lights, including headlights, will be LED, if available from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).
2. All new buses will have illuminated school bus signs and stop signs.
3. All buses will have heated crossview mirrors to melt ice and snow in the winter.
4. Added the requirement to include a battery shut-off switch for bus batteries during summer months or during long periods of non-usage to preserve their lifetime.
5. Changed the requirements of the driver's seat to allow school districts to purchase more comfortable seating. The committee removed the requirement of Kevlar for the driver's seat. Many manufacturers do not provide this for the driver seat. This change provides additional options including more comfort and ergonomic seating for drivers.
6. Changed the air conditioner condenser requirements to allow for the OEM requirements. This allows the manufacturer to provide the proper size for the air conditioner chosen, providing additional air conditioning options for the district.
7. Added crossview mirror lighting as an option for OEMs that provide it. This lights up the area in front of the school bus to allow drivers to see students and objects in low light or dark conditions.

2025 School Bus Specifications
List of Revisions

Page Number	Changes	Justification or Reason
Page 1 and throughout the document	Updated all references from 2024 to 2025.	Should be for the 2025 specifications.
Page 1	Updated the design of the cover page.	Changed the picture and font style of the writing. Also updated the interim commissioner and logo.
Page 2 and throughout the document	Updated Department of Education to Kentucky Department of Education.	To ensure differentiation between KDE and USED.
Page 3	Updated the Forward	Cleaned up verbiage.
Page 4	Updated the Table of Contents	Updated the Table of Contents to reflect the changes.
Page 17 and throughout	Updated headings and grammar. Updated the proper name of the Division of District Support.	Updated the headings to be more complete or better fitting. Updated the proper name of the Division of District Support and Pupil Transportation Branch
Page 19 and throughout	Fixed grammar and updated the names of forms.	To allow for easier reading of the document.
Page 24	Updated committee members.	Removed retired committee members and added new committee members.
Page 28	Added the requirement of a battery shut-off switch in the battery box.	Allows batteries to be shut off in the summer to keep from draining the battery.
Page 29	Added an accessory block.	The power block allows the connection of wiring to keep from splicing wires.
Page 34	Added verbiage stating the chassis shall be equipped with LED headlights if offered by the manufacturer. If LED headlights are not available, halogen headlights may be used. All headlights must include a dimmer switch.	LED headlights provide additional lighting along the sides of the bus and in front of the bus, widening the viewable area.
Page 38	Removing the requirement of a special hold down for Kentucky.	This allows the OEM standard battery hold-down.
Page 57 and 59	Adding the requirement of leakproof illuminated stop signs and school	This will allow vehicles to better see the bus from a further distance.

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	<p>bus signs. Removed the non-illuminated style requirements.</p> <p>Removed the requirement of Reflexite, 3M, or approved film.</p>	<p>Allows manufacturers to use their standard material for FMVSS compliance.</p>
Page 62	<p>Added crossview mirrors shall be heated in conjunction with rear vision outside mirrors equipped with a timer.</p>	<p>This item was added to allow quick and easy defrosting of crossview mirrors.</p>
Page 66	<p>Removed the requirements of Kevlar for the driver seat material.</p>	<p>Removing Kevlar will provide additional options to districts. The options may provide comfort and better ergonomics.</p>
Page 81	<p>Removed the requirements of a full-length L track.</p>	<p>There are additional options available to allow variable seating. It also aligns with the other buses.</p>
Page 91	<p>Changed the air condition condenser requirements to OEM standard. Also allowing for rooftop or body skirt-mounted condensers.</p>	<p>This removes the barriers to providing the proper condenser for the air conditioner.</p>
Page 96	<p>Added an accessible air valve may be installed to charge the air system in the event a school bus breaks down because it loses pressure.</p>	<p>This allows for the air system to be repressurized if the district has a portable air tank or pump.</p>
	<p>Barrier compartment pocket dimensions were provided as a minimum and maximum size.</p>	<p>This is for consistency and to provide clear guidelines for the size.</p>
	<p>Crossview down lit mirrors are added as an option.</p>	<p>This is not available by all OEMs. But for those that have it, districts may choose it as an option.</p>
Page 116	<p>Added the name Kentucky to the Pole intrusion test. Also moved it to be located with the other tests in the back of the book.</p>	<p>The pole intrusion test is known as the Kentucky Pole Test. Updated our manual to reflect this for when people call for the requirements.</p>