

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: 2026 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses

Date: August 2025

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the proposed 2026 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the 2026 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

702 KAR 5:060 and KRS 156.153

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

The KBE is required to approve the Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses in accordance with 702 KAR 5:060, Section 2. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Division of District Support, with the assistance of transportation partners, annually reviews the Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses and revises the specifications when experience, model changes, manufacturing techniques and product improvement indicate that revision and updating is necessary. Attached is a summary of the proposed revisions and a detailed description of the changes.

Summary of Issue:

The KDE Pupil Transportation Branch received input from the School Bus Specification Committee which is composed of district personnel and transportation professionals. The revisions provide necessary updates to the specifications.

Budget Impact:

There is no budget impact on KDE's budget.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

The School Bus Specification Committee provided recommended updates to the current Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses to KDE. The proposed 2026 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses will also be reviewed by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council.

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