

15 Passenger Vans

The use of 15-passenger vans is not prohibited in Canada, but is associated with higher safety risk, especially rollovers.

From a risk management perspective, the use of 12–15 passenger vans may be avoided by school divisions, unless no reasonable alternative is available.

Some school divisions prohibit 15-passenger vans entirely as a proactive safety measure.

Risk management/best practices if a 12–15 Passenger Van Is Used

- no more than **eight (8)** students are transported.
- seat belts are always worn by all occupants.
- The driver is an experienced adult, properly licensed, and familiar with large vehicle handling.
- reduced speeds are maintained.
- passengers are seated forward of the rear axle where possible.
- luggage and equipment are securely stored.
- extra caution is exercised in poor weather, high winds, and on high-speed roads.
- use is approved in advance and documented.

It is also recommended that transportation policies be created enabling the principal to give approval on behalf of the Board for the teachers, employees and volunteer drivers to transport students withing a 15-passenger van.

With this approval, the driver will be covered under the school board's general liability insurance. Criteria for approval shall include:

- Accordingly, students should not be driving other students
- Drivers shall have the experience and skills to handle a large van in all expected and unexpected road and weather conditions.
- Verify that the driver has a valid driver's license and has not had serious traffic offences
- Police criminal record check
- Student accident insurance shall be in place for all insured under the policy.