

Student Transportation: General Guidance, Key Safety & Risk Clarifications _ January 2026.

- Ultimately Individual school divisions in Saskatchewan are responsible for determining its policy for the transportation of students to extra-curricular school-related activities, including the type of vehicles to be used.
- Only Vehicles registered in **Class PS** (school bus) and **Class PB** (commercial vehicle used for transportation of passengers for compensation) can be used to transport more than 8 students to and from school.
- School divisions are to approve all transportation services and procedures following the [student transportation legislation and best practices](#).
- All categories of transportation type must carry a minimum of **\$2M liability insurance**.

Student Transportation: Vehicle Types and Safety Requirements:

1. School Buses ([Class PS](#))

School buses are the preferred and lowest-risk method for student transportation in Saskatchewan.

Safety requirements include:

- valid registration, inspection, and maintenance.
- use of approved seating positions only.
- Follow seating compartmentalization regularly
- use of seat belts or restraints where installed and required.
- manufacturer-approved restraint systems for special needs students must be always used.
- appropriate supervision during transport, loading, and unloading.

2. Commercial Vehicles ([Class PB](#)) - Vehicles used for transportation for compensation.

Safety requirements include:

When commercial vehicles are used, the following safety requirements must be followed:

- Transportation must be pre-approved as a school-authorized activity.
- The provider must be properly licensed and registered for commercial passenger transportation in Saskatchewan.

- Vehicles must meet all applicable:
 - inspection,
 - maintenance, and
 - safety certification requirements.
- Drivers must:
 - hold the appropriate SK class of license,
 - meet commercial driver fitness requirements, and
 - be experienced with passenger transportation.
- Vehicles must not exceed approved seating capacity.
- All applicable seat belt and restraint requirements must be followed.
- Adequate supervision must be provided based on:
 - student age,
 - group size, and
 - trip complexity.

3. Passenger Vehicles (Cars, SUVs, Minivans) [\(Class LV\)](#)

School divisions may approve the use of passenger vehicles may for small groups where appropriate.

Requirements include:

- seat belts worn by all occupants.
- compliance with SGI licensing and registration.
- appropriate driver suitability and supervision.
- use of age- and size-appropriate child restraints were required.

4. 12- 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.

15 Passenger Vans - Other Reference Links

- **Transport Canada – 12 & 15 Passenger Vans:**
<https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/publications/12-15-passenger-large-vans/school-transportation>
- **Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan:**
2012 & 2018 Reports on Transporting Students Safely
https://auditor.sk.ca/pub/publications/public_reports/2012/Volume_2/2012v2_36_StudentSafety.pdf
[Microsoft Word - pg 203-212 - CH 14 - Education Ministry and School Division - Transporting Students Safely.docx](#)
- **SGI – Passenger Transport Vehicles – Transportations of Students**
<https://sgi.sk.ca/passenger-transport-vehicles>