

PART 19 - SCHOOL BUSES

1901. School buses - equipped with supplementary brake retarders.

- (1) (a) On and after July 1, 1991, except as provided in Paragraph (a) of Subsection (2) of this Section, passengers of any school bus being used on mountainous terrain by any school district of the State shall not occupy the front row of seats and any seats located next to the emergency doors of such school bus during the period of such use.
- (b) For purposes of this Section, *mountainous terrain* shall include, but shall not be limited to, any road or street which the Colorado Department of Transportation has designated as being located on mountainous terrain.
- (2) The provisions of paragraph (a) of Subsection (1) of this Section shall not apply to:
 - (a) Passengers of any school bus which is equipped with retarders of appropriate capacity for purposes of supplementing any service brake systems of such school bus; or
 - (b) Any passenger who is adequately restrained in a fixed position pursuant to federal and state standards.
- (3) For purposes of this Section and Section 1902:
 - (a) *Mountainous terrain* means that condition where longitudinal and transverse changes in the elevation of the ground with respect to a road or street are abrupt and where benching and side hill excavation are frequently required to obtain acceptable horizontal and vertical alignment.
 - (b) *School bus* means any bus used to transport students to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, whether said activity occurs within or without the territorial limits of any district and whether or not occurring during school hours. (Ord. 016, 2003 §1)

1902. School bus drivers - special training required.

On and after July 1, 1992, the driver of any school bus, as defined in Section 1901(3)(b), owned or operated by or for any school district in this State shall have successfully completed training, approved by the Department of Education, concerning driving on mountainous terrain, as defined in Section 1901(3)(a), and driving in adverse weather conditions. (Ord. 016, 2003 §1)

1903. School buses - stops - signs - passing.

- (1) The driver of a vehicle upon any highway, road or street, upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus which has stopped, shall stop his or her vehicle before reaching such school bus if there are in operation on said school bus visual signal lights as specified in Subsection (2) of this Section, and said driver shall not proceed until the visual signal lights are no longer being actuated; but, in the case of small passenger-type vehicles operated as school buses having a seating capacity of not more than fifteen (15), no such visual signal lights need be displayed or actuated.
- (2) (a) Every school bus as defined in Section 42-1-102 (88), C.R.S., other than a small passenger-type vehicle having a seating capacity of not more than fifteen (15), used for the transportation of school children shall:
 - (I) Bear upon the front and rear of such school bus plainly visible and legible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters not less than eight (8) inches in height; and
 - (II) Display eight (8) visual signal lights, which shall be two (2) alternating flashing red lights visible to the drivers of vehicles approaching from the front of said bus, two (2) alternating flashing red lights visible to the drivers of vehicles approaching from the rear of said bus, and four (4) visual signal lights mounted near each of the four (4) red lights and at the same level but closer to the vertical center line of the bus and which shall be alternately flashing with two (2) visible to the front and two (2) visible to the rear. These visual signal lights shall be mounted as high as practicable, shall be as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall be located on the same level. These lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight.
- (b) (I) When a school bus is equipped only with red visual signal lights, they shall be actuated by the driver of said school bus whenever such vehicle is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging schoolchildren and at no other time; but such lights need not be actuated when any said school bus is stopped at locations where the local traffic regulatory authority has by prior written designation declared such actuation unnecessary.
- (II) A school bus shall be exempt from the provisions of Subparagraph (I) of this Paragraph (b) when stopped for the purpose of discharging or loading passengers, who require the assistance of a lift device only when no passenger is required to cross the

roadway. Such buses shall stop as far to the right of the roadway as possible to reduce obstruction to traffic.

- (c) The alternating flashing yellow lights shall be actuated at least two hundred (200) feet prior to the point where the bus is to be stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children, and the red lights shall be actuated only at the time the bus is actually stopped.
- (3) Every school bus used for the transportation of schoolchildren, except those small passenger-type vehicles described in Subsection (1) of this Section, shall be equipped with a stop signal arm mounted outside the bus on the left, alongside the driver and below the window. The stop signal arm shall be a flat octagon with the word "STOP" printed on both sides in such a manner as to be easily visible to persons approaching from either direction. The stop signal arm shall contain two (2) alternately flashing red lamps which are connected to the alternating flashing signal light system described in Subsection (2) of this Section, and the stop signal arm shall be extended only when the red visual signal lights are in operation.
- (4) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway. For the purposes of this Section, *highway with separate roadways* means a highway that is divided into two (2) or more roadways by a depressed, raised or painted median or other intervening space serving as a clearly indicated dividing section or island.
- (5) Every school bus shall stop as far to the right off the highway, road or street as possible before discharging or loading passengers; except that the school bus may block the lane of traffic when a passenger being received or discharged is required to cross the roadway. When possible, a school bus shall not stop where the visibility is obscured for a distance of two hundred (200) feet either way from the bus. The driver of a school bus which has stopped shall allow time for any vehicles which have stopped behind the school bus to pass the school bus, if such passing is legally permissible where the school bus is stopped, after the visual signal lights, if any, are no longer being displayed or actuated and after all children who have embarked or disembarked from the bus are safe from traffic.
- (6) The provisions of this Section shall not apply in the case of public transportation programs for pupil transportation under Section 22-51-104(1)(c), C.R.S. (Ord. 016, 2003 §1)

1904. Reserved.