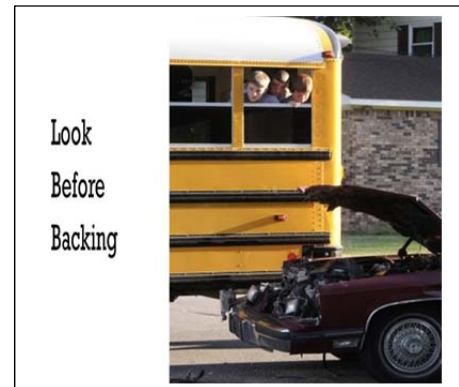


Safety is No Accident

MONTHLY SAFETY NEWSLETTER



Pre-Trip Inspection

The Passenger Carrier Safety Bureau is committed to ensuring all school buses and authorized passenger vehicles in New York State operate at the highest safety standards in the country. Our Bus Inspectors perform more than 154,000 comprehensive bus safety inspections and re-inspections annually. To accomplish this, the Bureau uses over 120 motor vehicle inspectors assigned to one of 11 regional safety inspection teams across the state. A total of nearly 60,000 buses, vans and cars are subject to the NYSDOT safety inspection review every six months and over 400 safety related factors are reviewed during each inspection.

Vehicle inspection, repair, and maintenance standards are critical to the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles. They are designed to reduce accidents, injuries, and fatalities resulting from unsafe vehicles operating on the highways.

The first thing a driver should do when beginning a tour of duty is to review the driver's vehicle inspection (DVIR) report from the previous dispatch. If there were defects noted, you should verify that the DVIR has been signed by a mechanic certifying that either the defect was repaired, scheduled for repair or the defect was determined not to affect the safety of the vehicle and repair was unnecessary. If the previous day's DVIR did contain a defect, you must sign the report to indicate that you have reviewed it and that the required certification and signature are present.

Note: A driver is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle if the company fails to make this certification.

Vehicle Inspection as stated in 17 (c) NYCRR 721.2 The preceding document link requires Adobe Acrobat Reader
The pre-trip inspection at least shall examine the following items:

Service brakes
Parking brake
Steering mechanism
Lighting devices and reflectors
Tires

Horn
Windshield wipers
Mirrors
Wheels and Rims
Emergency Equipment and exits

The post-trip inspection report shall note any additional mechanical or safety defects not listed on the pre-trip inspection report that the driver becomes aware of prior to the end of the tour of duty.

Rolling V Mission Statement

Operating a prompt, professional and personalized transportation company that is successful in its mission to be profitable, provide meaningful employment and give back to the community when it can . This missions is to be accomplished by adhering to our core values, one of which is

KNOW WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE

Ethics of Student Privacy and Confidentiality

Student confidentiality has been entrusted to school officials and support members. While there are legal guidelines that call for the protection of confidentiality, there is also the ethical obligation to ensure a student's trust is not violated.

Have you ever talked to a student who is being bullied or harassed? Have you wondered why they confide in you? The answer is simple. The student trusts that you are not going to pass the information along to anyone else, except those school officials who have a need to know. This is where ethics and confidentiality merge. Every bus driver needs to remember that it is their responsibility to protect a bullied or harassed student.

When a bus driver needs to pass along confidential information to a supervisor, they should always meet in private. This way, if there are others around, you can avoid them overhearing your conversation. It is important to avoid allowing anyone, be it a student, or another driver or parent, to hear your conversation. It's also a good idea to write down an accurate report of the conversation.

One MAJOR pitfall concerning student confidentiality is discussing student information in open or common areas. We illustrated an example of this at the beginning of the video. By doing this, you can inadvertently disclose student information, or worse, personal details students have shared with you. Remember, once information has been made public, you cannot get it back.

An overheard conversation is a bad mistake, but an open conversation by a bus driver that is overheard by parents, friends or other students, is a different matter entirely. When this happens, school officials are likely to hold the school bus driver responsible. This could lead to termination. Remember, a school district is legally responsible for the actions of their drivers. Protect your job, protect the school district and most importantly, protect your students.

A good rule to use when deciding whether to share student information is to ask yourself a simple but important question. "Why am I sharing this information?" If you're not sure, err on the side of caution and don't discuss information that could come back to haunt you. And, remember - you are the guardian for the students you transport - don't do anything that could harm them.

February Mandatory Safety Meetings

February 27th

Ellenville 10:00am

Fallsburg 1:00pm

February 28th

Liberty 8:45am

Roscoe 9:15am

February 28th

Ellenville 1:00pm

Fallsburg 10:30am

Neversink 10 am