

Mind your inspections | Part 3: School Buses

Pre- and post-trip inspections keep everyone on the school bus safer. Based on customer feedback and our industry expertise we've outlined below an effective path to ensuring proper pre- and post-trip inspections for school buses. Consider this your guide to the flow of areas and components drivers and operators should check to ensure their equipment is sanitized and in good working order.



Phase 1

Outside the bus, ensure the following are clear, clean and in good working order:

- all windows and screen guards (windshield, side doors and rear exits)
- emergency door/exits
- lights, reflectors, mirrors, turn signals, hazards and light lenses
- splash guards
- stop-arm (and camera, if relevant)
- front and rear brakes
- exhaust system
- steps and lifts
- handrails
- tires and tracks

Verify the engine and steering component (and fluids) are full or in good repair:

- oil, coolant and steering fluid
- water pump
- belt or gear
- air compressor
- leaks
- hoses and springs

Check beneath the bus for leaking fluid or foreign substances.

Phase 2

Inside the bus, ensure the following are clear, secured and in good working order:

- handholds, grab bars and triangles
- steps and walkways
- seats and safety fasteners
- windshield wipers
- rear-vision and student mirrors
- horns, alarms, turn and hazard signals, and any other alert notifications
- temperature, oil, voltmeter and air gauges
- airbags
- defroster
- fire extinguishers, belt cutters, spare fuses, warning devices and any other emergency equipment

Protect drivers and student riders by:

- using third-party certified cleaning products such as Green Seal and EcoLogo that don't contain ingredients known to contribute to or worsen health conditions
- using proper personal protection equipment such as gloves and masks while driving and when cleaning
- opening doors and windows to properly ventilate during cleaning
- cleaning high-contact surfaces first and most frequently (seats, buttons, handholds, rails and handles)
- requesting your school's infection control plan (ICP) for the specific protocol in the district or fleet

Phase 3

Clear any debris such as trash or spare parts from the interior and exterior.

Verify the bus's grills are secure and free of grime or dirt.

Before starting the engine, adjust:

- mirrors, including the student mirror
- steering column or wheel
- backrest and seat
- latches and emergency restraints

Test the brakes before leaving the parking space.

If you share a bus, before moving on:

- note any items or articles left behind by passengers
- document any damage or vandalism
- close any open windows or doors
- note if the vehicle emergency kit needs any replacements
- contact a technician for any urgent repairs
- take paperwork and documentation with you

Pro Tip: Monitor, verify and document each inspection, cleaning and sanitization routine—and comply with applicable regulations. Our Electronic Verified Inspection Reporting (EVIR®) system also reduces inspection time by more than 50% over paper-based inspections.

For more info, check out
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