
**Tennessee School Bus Specifications: Amendment of Implementation Date
Seats and Restraining Barriers, Passenger Seating, Section A.8**

The Background:

On November 2, 2007, the Board approved Tennessee School Bus Specifications with the understanding that the only major modification to such standards was the requirement of a crossing control arm, estimated at \$200 per bus.

See, http://state.tn.us/sbe/Nov07/VH_Bus_Specs.pdf.

After additional review, it has been brought to the attention of Board staff by several district representatives that these specifications included new language related to seatbelts on page 27 of the report under the category subheading: **SEATS AND RESTRAINING BARRIERS, Passenger Seating, Section A.8**

Section A.8 - Lap belts shall not be installed on passenger seats in large school buses (over 10,000 pounds GVWR) except in conjunction with child safety restraint systems that comply with the requirements of FMVSS No. 213, Child Restraint Systems.

The Board, SBE staff, and LEAs were not aware of this language. Based on the discovery of this new language, SBE staff recommends that the implementation date for Seats and Restraining Barriers, Passenger Seating, Section A.8 of Tennessee School Bus Specifications approved on November 2, 2007, be amended to impact school buses with a body build date later than July 1, 2009.

Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the *Master Plan* by providing for the support of sufficient resources.

The Recommendation:

SBE staff recommends that the implementation date for Seats and Restraining Barriers, Passenger Seating, section A.8 of Tennessee School Bus Specifications approved on November 2, 2007, be amended to impact school buses with a body build date later than July 1, 2009, be adopted on final reading.