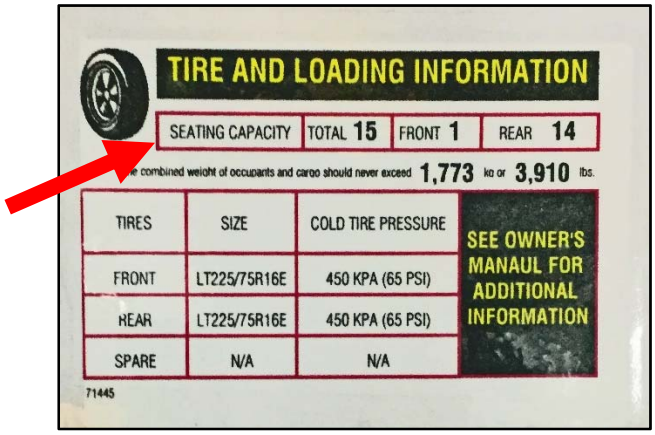
14 Passenger Rated School Buses - CDL & Training Requirements

The CDL (Commercial Driver's License) requirement for a bus is based on the rated capacity and GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating). Both the rated capacity and GVWR of a bus is determined by the original manufacturer and can be found on a sticker or plate inside the bus. The bus is certified by the manufacturer for the rated capacity and cannot be changed by anyone other than the manufacturer. The rated capacity directly affects the compartmentalization of the school bus. Cases of the passenger rating being changed are extremely rare.



GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) 26,000 lbs or less

Drivers operating a yellow school bus with a GVWR of 26,000 lbs or less and rated for 14 passengers or less plus the driver are not required to have a CDL (Commercial Driver's License). These drivers are also not required federal mandated alcohol & drug testing.

All drivers are required with NO exceptions:

- Valid Driver's License
- DOT Physical Required
- First Aid/CPR Required
- Defensive Driving Required
- 10 Safety Meetings Required
- 12 Hours of Behind the Wheel Training

Additional Information:

- Can be used on a route to transport students from school to home or home to school.
- Can be used for activity trips.
- It is illegal to remove seats from the bus or transport fewer passengers than the rated capacity to circumvent the CDL requirement

GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) 26,000 lbs or less

Drivers operating a white (or any other color) activity bus with a GVWR of 26,000 lbs or less and rated for 14 passengers or less plus the driver are not required to have a CDL (Commercial Driver's License). These drivers are also not required federal mandated alcohol & drug testing.

All drivers are required with NO exceptions:

- Valid Driver's License
- DOT Physical Required
- First Aid/CPR Required
- Defensive Driving Required
- 10 Safety Meetings Required
- 12 Hours of Behind the Wheel Training

Additional Information:

- Cannot be used on a route to transport students from school to home or home to school
- Can be used for activity trips
- It is illegal to remove seats from the bus or transport fewer passengers than the rated capacity to circumvent the CDL requirement