



DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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MEMORANDUM FOR District Superintendents

SUBJECT: Use of Non-Conforming Vans for Student Travel

Student safety is an important facet of our mission. In accordance with the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1974, student-commuting transportation shall be performed in vehicles that comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses. FMVSS mandates certain safety equipment, and manufacturing and design criteria which greatly enhances occupant protection on school buses.

Non-conforming vehicles do not meet the safety standards for school buses required by Federal law (hence the term "non-conforming"). Although ideal for private use, these vehicles do not offer the safety features required for student transportation. They are not built with compartmentalized construction, emergency exits, pedestrian safety equipment and roll over cage protection. These design and construction features greatly enhance occupant protection and survivability. District superintendents shall ensure students are not transported to or from school in non-conforming vans.

Districts shall adhere to state laws regarding student transportation when transporting students off the military installation since some states permit the use of vehicles that carry less than 10 passengers for student commuting and extra curricular transportation. Use of non-conforming vehicles on a military reservation is at the District Superintendent's discretion.

Your logistics specialist should conduct periodic reviews to ensure non-conforming vehicles are not used as commuting transportation. Contact the ASC Logistics Branch or check <http://www.stnonline.com/stn/nonconformingvans/index.htm> for more information regarding non-conforming vehicles or state regulations.

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