

Pre-trip School Bus Inspections

As a means of improving student safety for pupils transported on school buses, it is recommended that each local and intermediate school district (in coordination with contracted pupil transportation providers, if applicable) develop policies or guidelines requiring every school bus driver to perform a pre-trip inspection of the school bus, document the activity, and report the condition of the school bus to the transportation supervisor, or designee, in a timely manner. It is further recommended that the transportation supervisor provide spot checks to insure the pre-trip inspections are being completed and maintain records of these daily inspections for two (2) years.

Preventing school bus breakdowns assists with reducing driver frustrations and strengthens student safety. The school bus driver's primary concern should be for the safety of his/her passengers. Pre-trip vehicle inspections, when properly completed, reduces the potential for school bus breakdowns and exposure of students to traffic hazards. The Michigan Department of Education, upon the recommendation of the Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee, recommends this procedure be implemented by all Michigan school districts that provide pupil transportation services.