OpsAuditHub opsauditihub.com	DOC ID: **SAF-0368**	REVISION: **Rev 2.4 (2026)**
	STANDARD: **49 CFR Part 396 (FMCSA) & NHTSA School Bus Safety Guidelines**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Daily Pre-Shift**

School Bus Pre Trip Safety Inspection Compliance Checklist

Operational Scope: This operational checklist establishes a mandatory pre-trip verification protocol for all district-operated student transport vehicles to mitigate mechanical failure risks. Compliance is legally required prior to route deployment to ensure passenger safety and federal transit adherence.

MANDATORY PPE:	High-Visibility Safety Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107 Class 2), Heavy-Duty Leather Palm Work Gloves, Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1), Steel-Toe Safety Boots (ASTM F2413)
PREREQUISITES:	Vehicle parked on level ground with parking brake fully engaged and transmission in Park or Neutral. | Engine turned off with ignition key secured in inspector's possession during exterior checks.

EXTERIOR & UNDER-HOOD INSPECTION

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Fluid Levels & Engine Compartment**	Engine oil, coolant, power steering, and windshield washer fluids are at or above minimum operating thresholds. No active fluid leaks or frayed drive belts.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
2	**Tires, Wheels, and Lugs**	Front tires minimum 4/32-inch tread depth; rear minimum 2/32-inch. No sidewall bulges or cuts. All lug nuts present with no rust trails indicating looseness.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
3	**Emergency Exits & Exterior Lighting**	All headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, and 8-way warning strobe/flasher lights operational. Emergency exit windows and doors open freely with audible alarms functioning.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
4	**Stop Arm & Crossing Gate**	Pneumatic or electric stop arm extends fully at 90 degrees with functioning strobe lights. Crossing gate deploys smoothly without obstruction.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

INTERIOR CABIN & SAFETY EQUIPMENT

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
5	**Driver Seatbelt & Steering Play**	Driver seatbelt latches securely and webbing shows no fraying. Steering wheel free play does not exceed 10 degrees (2 inches on a 20-inch wheel).	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
6	**Emergency Safety Equipment Kit**	Fully charged ABC fire extinguisher secured in bracket, bi-directional reflective triangles present, and first aid kit stocked and sealed.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
7	**Passenger Seats & Interior Aisles**	All student seats securely anchored to the floor with uncompromised compartmentalization padding. Aisleways completely clear of tripping hazards or loose debris.	**Standard**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
8	**Brake System & Interlock Test**	Service brake holds vehicle stationary under acceleration. Parking brake holds against engine power in low gear. Service door interlock prevents vehicle movement when open.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

Certified School Bus Driver / Lead Fleet Inspector Signature: _____	**Date / Time:** _____	**Badge / Cert #:** _____
Director of Transportation / Fleet Safety Supervisor Sign-off: _____	**Review Date:** _____	**Audit Status:** [ ] Approved [ ] Rectify

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