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	STANDARD: **FMCSA 49 CFR Part 396 & NHTSA School Bus Standards**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Daily Pre-Shift**

School Bus Pre Trip Safety Inspection Inspection Checklist

Operational Scope: This operational document establishes mandatory pre-trip inspection protocols for all district and contractor-operated school buses to ensure complete mechanical integrity. Its primary objective is the mitigation of transport-related hazards to guarantee student safety and maintain 100% compliance with federal motor carrier safety regulations.

MANDATORY PPE:	High-Visibility Safety Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107 Class 2), Heavy-Duty Leather Work Gloves, Steel-Toe Safety Boots (ASTM F2413), Safety Glasses with Side Shields (ANSI Z87.1), Nitrile Chemical-Resistant Gloves
PREREQUISITES:	Verify vehicle is parked on level ground with the parking brake fully engaged and transmission in neutral/park. | Ensure engine is shut off and key is removed from the ignition prior to initiating exterior mechanical checks. | Review previous day's driver vehicle inspection report (DVIR) to confirm all prior write-ups were resolved.

EXTERIOR & ENGINE COMPARTMENT CHECK

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Fluid Levels & Leaks**	Engine oil, coolant, power steering, and windshield washer fluid must be at safe operational levels with zero active puddles or leaks underneath the bus.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
2	**Belts, Hoses & Wiring**	All drive belts must have less than 3/4 inch deflection with no severe fraying; coolant hoses must be free of bulges, cracks, or soft spots; electrical wiring securely fastened.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
3	**Tires, Wheels & Lugs**	Steering axle tires minimum 4/32-inch tread depth; remaining tires minimum 2/32-inch. All lug nuts present with no rust trails or shiny threads indicating looseness.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
4	**Emergency Exits & Emergency Door**	Emergency exit windows, roof hatches, and rear emergency doors must open freely from inside and outside, and activate the audible warning buzzer when unlatched.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

INTERIOR, SAFETY EQUIPMENT & LIGHTING

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
5	**Brake System & Interlock**	Service brakes must hold firmly without excessive pedal travel. Passenger door must be fully closed to release the transmission shift interlock mechanism.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
6	**Emergency Safety Equipment**	First aid kit, bodily fluid cleanup kit, fire extinguisher (fully charged with current inspection tag), and triangular reflective warning triangles must be securely mounted and accessible.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
7	**Stop Arm & Crossing Gate**	Stop signal arm and front crossing gate must extend fully at a 90-degree angle, with functioning high-intensity flashing LED strobe lights visible to oncoming traffic.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
8	**Exterior Lighting & Signals**	All amber/red warning lights, headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals, and backup lights must illuminate properly when tested with assistance.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

PASSENGER COMPARTMENT & DRIVER CONTROLS

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
9	**Passenger Seats & Flooring**	All seat frames must be firmly bolted to the floor; vinyl padding must not have exposed sharp edges or deep lacerations; aisle free of tripping hazards.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
10	**Driver Seatbelt & Mirrors**	Driver seatbelt must latch securely and retract properly without fraying. Interior and exterior crossover/convex mirrors must be adjusted correctly and free of cracks.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

Certified Inspector / Lead Operator Signature: _____	**Date / Time:** _____	**Badge / Cert #:** _____
Site Safety Supervisor / Operations Manager Sign-off: _____	**Review Date:** _____	**Audit Status:** [ ] Approved [ ] Rectify

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