OpsAuditHub opsauditihub.com	DOC ID: **SAF-0365**	REVISION: **Rev 2.4 (2026)**
	STANDARD: **FMVSS & 49 CFR Part 396 (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations)**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Daily Pre-Shift**

School Bus Pre Trip Safety Inspection Safety Audit Checklist

Operational Scope: This audit checklist establishes a mandatory pre-trip inspection protocol for all educational transport vehicles to ensure passenger safety and mitigate mechanical failure risks. Execution of this checklist is a legal prerequisite prior to student transport operations.

MANDATORY PPE:	High-Visibility Safety Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107 Class 2), Nitrile or Cut-Resistant Work Gloves, Steel-Toe Safety Footwear (ASTM F2413), Safety Glasses with Side Shields (ANSI Z87.1)
PREREQUISITES:	Vehicle parked on level ground with the parking brake fully engaged and wheels chocked if necessary. | Engine turned off with ignition key in the possession of the inspecting driver or technician.

EXTERIOR & UNDER-HOOD INSPECTION

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Engine Compartment Fluid Levels**	Coolant, engine oil, power steering fluid, and windshield washer fluid are within designated operational ranges with no active leaks.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
2	**Belts, Hoses, and Wiring**	Drive belts show no excessive fraying or cracking; hoses are securely clamped with no signs of bulging, softening, or leakage.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
3	**Tires, Wheels, and Lug Nuts**	Minimum tread depth meets legal limit (4/32" front, 2/32" rear), proper inflation pressure, no bulges or cuts, and all lug nuts present with no rust trails.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
4	**Emergency Exits & Exterior Lighting**	All headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals, 8-way warning flashers, and stop-arm signals operate correctly; emergency exit windows and doors open freely without obstruction.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

INTERIOR & PASSENGER SAFETY SYSTEMS

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
5	**Driver Seatbelt and Controls**	Driver seatbelt retracts smoothly, latches securely, and shows no fraying; all foot pedals operate freely without catching.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
6	**Brake System Functionality**	Service brakes, parking brake, and air/hydraulic brake pressure indicators function correctly without excessive pedal travel or pressure loss.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
7	**Emergency Safety Equipment**	Fire extinguisher is fully charged and pinned, first aid kit is fully stocked, and reflective warning triangles/flares are securely mounted.	**Warning**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**
8	**Passenger Seats and Interior Cleanliness**	All student seats are securely bolted to the floor with undamaged, fire-retardant upholstery; aisleways are completely clear of tripping hazards.	**Standard**	**[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A**

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

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