

Restricted Items – Alberta

Items being carried on the bus for school activities must follow the parameters required by Alberta Transportation under the Traffic Safety Act.

All school bus operators are required to follow the Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation as stated in the Province's Traffic Safety Act, which has the following requirements regarding the transportation of items on school buses:

Luggage, cargo, goods, equipment

15(1) In addition to the requirements of the Vehicle Equipment Regulation regarding transportation of goods, a bus shall not be operated unless the luggage, cargo, goods, equipment, and tools that are carried on the bus are carried in an adequate place provided for the carrying of those items.

(2) The place provided for carrying luggage, cargo, goods, equipment, or tools under subsection (1) must

(a) not interfere with free access to the exits of the bus,

(b) be constructed so as to prevent the luggage, cargo, goods, equipment, or tools from falling on or against a passenger, and

(c) in the case of passenger luggage, protect the luggage from dust and moisture.

AR 121/2009 Schedule 1

Purpose of a School Bus

The purpose of a school bus is to transport students to and from school. Transportation Services are not required to transport students to other activities, work experience, after school jobs, tutoring, music lessons, sports events, etc. Parents of students enrolled in these types of programs that may require special equipment are responsible for these items' transportation.

Items Eligible for Transportation

Large items cannot stick out into the aisles or above seats or into any other student's space. Anything extra a student carries on to the bus must be held in their lap, or rested on the floor between their legs. The following items are allowed on school buses:

- Small instruments such as flutes, clarinets, trumpets
- Lunch bags, school backpacks, text books, and school supplies contained in a backpack
- Sports equipment in sports bags (large hockey bags not included)

The following are examples of items not allowed on the bus. Prohibited items are not limited to the items listed below, but also to like sized items.

- All medium to large instruments
- Hockey bags & sticks, skis & poles, snowboards, brooms, and skateboards
- Science boards, large projects, and other school items that cannot be carried in a backpack
- Snowboards
- Baseball bats
- Skis
- Sleighs/toboggans
- Any other equipment that would be either too long or present a high level of hazard if stored or used/carried improperly
- Items that would require being stored or impinging on the exit aisle or blocking emergency exits

A maximum of two instruments are allowed on the floor in one seat compartment. Some buses are near capacity, so students will not be allowed to bring both an instrument *and* extra sports bag along with their backpacks.

Restricted Items

- 9(1) The following items are not permitted on school buses because the Alberta Motor Transport Act, School Bus Operation Regulation prohibits them from being transported on a school bus:
- (a) animals,
 - (b) firearms or any weapon,
 - (c) explosives,
 - (d) flammable materials or substances,
 - (e) fuel other than in the fuel system and fuel tank of the school bus,
 - (f) anything of a dangerous or objectionable nature, or
 - (g) anything that might endanger the lives or safety of persons on the school bus.
- (2) Only certain equipment is permitted on school buses. In cases of dispute, the final decision as to what may or may not be transported rests with the driver. The aisle of a school bus must be clear at all times.
- (3) If there is enough room on the school bus, musical instruments may be transported if they are in their proper musical cases only, and must be kept on the student's lap or stowed as per the driver's instructions.
- (4) Skates and skateboards are not permitted on school buses, unless they are in a closed duffle bag, and stowed as per the driver's instructions.
- (5) Skis, ski poles and hockey equipment may only be transported on school buses which are equipped with exterior storage space in accordance with the Alberta Motor Transport Act, School Bus Operation Regulation.