

Summary of Key Changes in the Proposed Revisions to the *Virginia Public School Bus Specifications*

1. **Addition of electric school bus specifications.**
(revisions throughout the document)
2. **Addition of aluminum wheels as an approved option.**
(Page 24)
 1. With the addition of electric buses and technology equipment adding weight to the school bus, aluminum wheels offer a weight saving of 45 pounds per wheel with no reduction in safety or performance.
3. **Communication and card scanning equipment mounting instructions.**
(Pages 26-27)
 1. Mounting instructions to ensure additional equipment will not affect safety, driver's vision, and movement inside the bus.
4. **Service door control switch location right side of the steering wheel.**
(Page 32)
 1. Most of the service door control switches are located on the left switch console causing the driver to look away from the passenger door.
 2. There have been nationwide incidents of passengers getting caught in the service door when closing that were undetected by the driver due to the left service door switch location.
5. **School bus fuel designation incorporated into the bus number.**
(Page 41)
 1. Due to various firefighting protocols for fuels, First Responder entities are requesting school buses have a visible fuel designation.
 2. The school bus number is located on both sides, front, and rear of the school bus.
6. **Addition of supplemental warning lights as an approved option.**
(Page 46)
 1. Additional red LED warning lights mounted on the front and rear of the bus above the bumpers to aid in the reduction of illegal school bus passing while loading/unloading students.
 2. The lights are active when the stop arm is deployed.

3. The lights are a complement to the national standard for school bus lighting in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 108 (FMVSS-108).

7. **Length and width of school buses.**

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1. Revisions to language to conform to *Code of Virginia Section 46.2-1113. Length of vehicles, generally; special permits; vehicle combinations, etc., operating on certain highways; penalty.* and with *Code of Virginia Section 46.2-1105. Width of vehicles generally; exceptions.*

8. **Strobe lights on activity buses.**

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1. Previous specifications did not specify the approved use of strobe lights on activity buses.
2. Strobe lights are located on the roof of the bus and used when there is reduced visibility caused by inclement weather.

9. **Increase in passenger capacity of “Type A” school buses from twenty-four to thirty passengers.**

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1. Due to the nationwide driver shortage, school divisions have been utilizing smaller capacity school buses for flexibility with routing. Increasing the passenger size will aid in route planning and efficiency.
2. Many areas of school divisions requiring student transportation will only accommodate smaller capacity school buses.
3. School divisions have been utilizing “Type A” school buses as the initial vehicle for new drivers due to better maneuverability and smaller passenger capacity.