



Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB)

Introduction

As of October 2, 2019, multifunction school activity buses (MFSAB's) are allowed for use in Iowa. A multifunction school activity bus is a school bus whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops as defined in 49 CFR 571.3. MFSABs meet all FMVSS (Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards) for school buses except the traffic control requirements (alternately flashing signal and stop arm). These vehicles will be subject to school bus inspections per Iowa Code and rule requirements. The following criteria must be met for an MFSAB to pass inspection and to be allowed for use in the State of Iowa.

Criteria

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT:

Crossing gates are allowed, but not required.

Strobe lights are required and used per the criteria found in IAC 44.3(39)(m.).

Trailer hitches and/or pulling trailers is not allowed.

BUMPERS:

The front bumper shall be chrome or black. The rear bumper shall be black. Per the criteria found in IAC 44.3(7)(a.) and IAC 44.3(8)(a.)

COLOR:

May be up to two colors, but neither color may be National School Bus Yellow.

IDENTIFICATION:

The body shall bear the words "ACTIVITY BUS" in black letters on both front and rear of the body. The lettering shall be placed as high as possible. Lettering shall meet the criteria found in IAC 44.3(35)(a.)

The bus, whether school-owned or contractor-owned, shall have displayed at the beltline on each side of the vehicle the official name of the school per the criteria found IAC 44.3(35)(b.)

Buses privately owned by individuals, a company, or a contractor shall also bear the name of the owner, per the criteria found in IAC 44.3(35)(g.)

Exterior labeling shall include labels for the fuel door and battery box, per the size criteria found in IAC 44.3(35)(k.) and (n.) Label color shall contrast with body color.

INTERIOR CONSIDERATIONS:

Activity type seats are allowed.

All equipment must be secured.

Luggage racks are not allowed.

Vehicle mounted passenger video screens are not allowed.

RETROREFLECTIVE MATERIAL:

Retroreflective material shall be provided per the criteria found in IAC 44.3(51), except that the material must be a color other than National School Bus Yellow.

WRAPS, ADVERTISING, AND GRAPHICS:

Wraps and advertising are not allowed. School mascot or team logos are allowed but must be placed below the beltline.

WHEELS:

Dual rear wheels are required per the criteria found in IAC 44.3(69)(d.). Wheels shall be either aluminum or black.

Additional Information or Questions:

Contact the Iowa Department of Education.