

Bus Type Classification

There are seven styles of buses that can be manufactured to federal motor vehicle safety standards for school buses. Plus one style of vehicle that is often used for school transportation purposes, but does not meet the applicable FMVSS. The following chart describes each of these types and styles of vehicle.

The **Type A** school bus is a conversion or body constructed upon a van-type or cutaway front-section vehicle with a left side driver's door, designed for carrying more than 10 persons. This definition shall include two classifications: **Type A-1**, with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 14,500 pounds or less, and a **Type A-2**, with a GVWR of 14,501 pounds or more.



Type A



Type B

The **Type B** school bus is a conversion or body constructed and installed upon a front-section vehicle chassis, or stripped chassis, with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, designed for carrying more than 10 persons. Part of the engine is beneath and/or behind the windshield and beside the driver's seat. The entrance door is behind the front wheels.

The **Type C** school bus is a body installed upon a flat-back cowl chassis with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, designed for carrying more than 10 persons. The entire engine is in front of the windshield and the entrance door is behind the front wheels. [Editor's note: The Type C school buses are referred to as "conventional" buses.]



Type C



Type D

The **Type D** school bus is a body installed upon a chassis, with the engine mounted in the front, mid-ship, or rear with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, and designed for carrying more than 10 persons. The engine may be behind the windshield and beside the driver's seat; it may be at the rear of the bus, behind the rear wheels; or mid-ship between the front and rear axles. The entrance door is ahead of the front wheels. [Editor's note: Type D school buses are referred to as "transit-style," RE for "rear-engine," or FC for "forward control."]