

# Examples of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for School Buses

## FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD (FMVSS) 220:

### SCHOOL BUS ROLLOVER PROTECTION

The purpose of this standard is to reduce the number of deaths and the severity of injuries that result from failure of the school bus body structure to withstand forces encountered in rollover crashes. The bus must withstand 1½ times its own weight placed directly on top of the roof.

Required by Georgia (not a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard—not pictured):  
**Crossing Control Arm**

This arm is mounted on the front bumper and will swing out when the door is opened. It is designed to keep children from walking close to the front of the bus.

## Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (Fmvss) 217:

### BUS EMERGENCY EXITS

Each bus is required to have a specific number of exits based on the carrying capacity of the bus. Each exit is required to be well-marked and operable by any student.

## FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD (FMVSS) 221:

### SCHOOL BUS BODY JOINT STRENGTH

The purpose of this standard is to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from the structural failure of school bus bodies during a crash. This standard requires every external body joint to be at least 60% as strong as an unjointed piece of steel.

## FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD (FMVSS) 222:

### SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SEATING AND CRASH PROTECTION

School bus seats must be designed to absorb the forces from a crash and pass on as little as possible of the crash force to its passengers. Georgia school buses utilize an important safety feature called "compartmentalization." Compartmentalization keeps the students safe like an egg carton protects eggs. The seats are spaced close together, the seat backs are high, and the cushions absorb most of the crash forces to protect the occupants.

## FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD (FMVSS) 111:

### REAR VIEW AND CROSS VIEW MIRRORS

Side and Rear View Mirrors let the driver know what is going on around them. Cars may be approaching, kids may be walking up to the bus, and bikes may be close by. The required crosswalk mirrors give coverage directly in front of the bus in the DANGER ZONE. Since students are required to cross in front of the bus, these mirrors show the children while they are in this area.

## FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD (FMVSS) 131:

### SCHOOL BUS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DEVICES

**Yellow flashing lights** on the bus indicate the bus is getting ready to stop and load or unload. This means cars need to slow down and get ready to stop.

**Red Flashing Lights and Stop Signal Arm** indicates that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or off. This tells motorists to stop their cars.

