

National School Bus Inspection Survey Summary

Conducted During the Spring of 2011

The Survey was managed by Donald Tudor, on behalf of the NASDPTS

- The Survey had 37 states respond. (Due to an error during the first three days the survey instrument was available to states, 3 states responded that could not be identified)
- The 37 states responding either have a local inspection program (inspections done by local inspectors) or a state inspection program (inspections done by state inspectors) that are mandated by the state.
- Of the 37 states reporting, 23 states have a local inspection program mandated by the state.
- Of the 37 states reporting, 35 states have a statewide inspection program.
- Of the 37 states reporting, 9 states have both a local and a state inspection program mandated by the state.

Results of the Local Inspection Program

The following 23 states require a local inspection:

Alabama
Arkansas
Colorado
Connecticut
Florida
Georgia
Indiana
Kansas
Iowa
Louisiana
Maryland
Missouri
Nevada
New Jersey
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Utah
Virginia
West Virginia
And three unknown states

- Of these 23 states reporting, 19 states have state adopted inspection standards, 1 state uses the USDOT inspection standards and 3 have no adopted standards.
- On average, a bus must be inspected once every 5.06 months
- All 23 states require buses operated by public school districts to be inspected, 16 states required buses operated by private contractors to be inspected, 10 states require buses operated for

private schools either by the school or a private contractor to be inspected, 8 states require the inspection of all non-school bus vehicles operated to transport K-12 students, 3 states require the inspection to include other type buses, and 18 states require the inspection of Multi-Functional School Activity Buses.

- Of the states reporting on the items to be inspected, 15 states do not require wheels to be pulled during brake inspection, 17 do not require batteries to be tested during inspection and 16 states do not require wheels to be removed to inspect brake components; in general 19 to 21 states require a long list of common inspection items.
- The majority of these inspections are done by district staff. Of the states reporting, 13 of 23 states require state monitoring and 10 of 22 states reporting require inspectors to be certified.
- Seven states out of 23 reporting require inspection stickers to be posted on the inspected bus.
- Inspections on average require 1.10 hours to perform.

Results of the State Inspection Program

The following 35 states, out of 37 states reporting, have state inspection programs:

Alabama
Alaska
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Georgia
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Kansas
Iowa
Louisiana
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Montana
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon

South Carolina
Utah
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
And two unknown states

- Of these 35 states reporting, 32 states have state adopted inspection standards, 1 state uses the USDOT inspection standards, and 2 states did not respond.
- Of the 35 states reporting, 16 states require the inspection annually, 10 states require it every 6 months, 1 state requires it every 13 months, 1 state requires it three times a year, 2 states have a percentage or mileage trigger, and 3 states did not report.
- Of the 35 states reporting, 32 states require buses operated by public school districts to be inspected, 26 states required buses operated by private contractors, 18 states require buses operated for private schools either by the school or a private contractor, 9 states require the inspection of all non-school bus vehicles operated to transport K-12 students, 7 states require the inspection of other bus groups, and 24 states require the inspection of Multi-Functional School Activity Buses.
- Of the 33 states reporting on the items to be inspected, 18 states do not require wheels to be pulled during brake inspection, 20 states do not require batteries to be tested during inspection and 21 states do not require wheels to be removed to inspect brake components. In general, 29 to 30 of the states reporting require a long list of common inspection items.
- Of the 33 states reporting, 33 states have a standardized inspection manual or document.
- Twenty-seven states use state personnel to do the inspection, seven states allow District staff to do the inspections, and five states allow private contractors and private garages to do inspections. Twenty-nine states monitor the inspection program and 24 states require inspectors to be certified.
- Of the 33 reporting, 23 states require inspection stickers to be posted on the inspected bus.
- On average, state inspections require 2.52 hours to perform.