November 8, 2018

BULLETIN NO. 103-18 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

TO:  Educational Service District Superintendents
     School District Superintendents
     School District Assistant Superintendents for Business and/or
     Business Managers
     School District Transportation Administrators
     Regional Transportation Coordinators

FROM:  Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: School Bus Inspection Results, 2017–18 School Year

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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) Commercial Vehicle Division conducts required inspections of all public school buses owned and operated by school districts, charter schools, or operated under a contract to provide student transportation services to a school district. There is a required annual inspection of 100 percent of all school buses (the “summer inspection”) and an additional unannounced inspection conducted on 25 percent of the school buses (the “winter inspection”).

The attached spreadsheet shows the results of this inspection process for all school districts for the 2017–18 school year. The spreadsheet shows the total number of school buses inspected in each fleet and the number of school buses placed out-of-service. The current out-of-service criteria are available at 2016 School Bus and Traffic Safety Education Vehicle Inspection Manual.

There are no national requirements for school bus inspection criteria. Washington’s out-of-service criteria has been developed over the years in cooperation with the WSP Commercial Vehicle Division, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the School Bus Equipment Committee composed of OSPI, Regional Transportation Coordinators, and school district transportation and administration staff. The out-of-service criteria are those conditions that represent a potential safety hazard in the operation of a school bus. For instance, a school bus is placed out of service when the brakes on one axle are out of adjustment, even though the braking system as a whole is able to stop the bus.

If you would like additional information regarding the inspection process or details on the results in your district, please contact your regional transportation coordinator.
Informative content of the document.