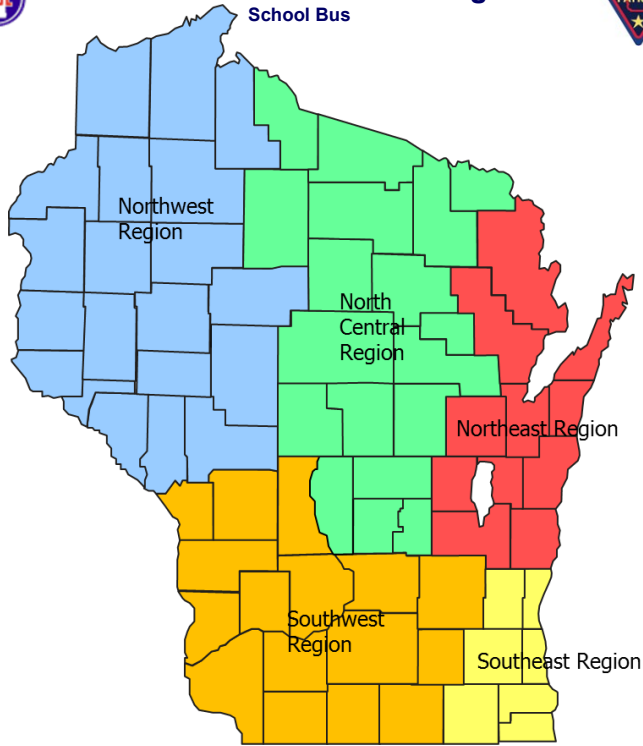




**WISCONSIN STATE PATROL**  
**Motor Carrier Enforcement Regions**  
 School Bus



**Northwest Region**  
**Spooner**

W7102 Green Valley  
 Sgt. Timothy Weiberg  
 715-635-2141

**Northwest Region**  
**Eau Claire**

5005 Highway 53 S  
 Sgt. William J. Berger  
 715-839-3809

**North Central Region**  
**Wausau**

2805 Martin  
 Sgt. Robert Hartson  
 715-845-4599

**Southwest Region**  
**DeForest**

911 West North  
 Sgt. Anne Maxson  
 608-846-8500  
 Sgt. Brad Ocain  
 608-846-8500

**Southwest Region**  
**Tomah**

23928 Lester McMullin  
 Sgt. Nicolas Betts  
 608-374-0508

**Northeast Region**  
**Fond du Lac**

851 S. Rolling Meadows  
 Sgt. Daniel Diedrich  
 920-929-3700  
 Sgt. Timothy Austin  
 920-929-3700

**Southeast Region**  
**Waukesha**

21115 E. Moreland  
 Sgt. Michele Martino  
 262-857-7511  
 Sgt. Gaetano Martino  
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**CHAPTER TRANS 300**

*Transportation of School Children*

*8-Light Warning  
 Implementation*



**-Effective August 16, 2016-**

SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION MANUAL

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/equipment/sch-bus/law.aspx>

## Definition of a school bus



In Wisconsin—

A school bus is a motor vehicle which carries 10 or more passengers in addition to the operator or a motor vehicle painted with legally required school bus markings, glossy school bus yellow trimmed in black, for the purpose of transporting:

- Pupils to or from a public school or a private school or pupils to or from a technical college when required.
- Pupils to or from curricular or extracurricular activities.
- Pupils to or from religious instruction on days when school is in session.
- Children with disabilities to or from an educational program approved by the department of public instruction.

## What to do when approaching a school bus displaying flashing lights



A vehicle approaching a school bus with an 8-light warning system must do the following:

### AMBER WARNING LIGHTS

- This is a cautionary message that the bus is coming to a stop and will soon be activating its RED warning lights. Traffic is allowed to bypass the school bus with care.

### RED WARNING LIGHTS

- Stop at least 20 feet from the bus and remain stopped until the bus resumes motion or the driver extinguishes the flashing red warning lights.

Failure to do so will result in a minimum fine of \$326.50 and four points. This law does not apply to vehicles driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway but does apply if no barrier is present on multi-lane street or highway.

NOTE—A vehicle that approaches a stopped school bus that is displaying flashing red warning lights must stop, regardless if the stop arm is out or not (Ss.346.48(1)).

## School bus operator requirements



School bus manufactured prior to 01/01/05 equipped with only RED warning lights as specified in Ss.347.25(2):

- The operator shall actuate the lights at least 100 feet before stopping to load or unload pupils or other authorized passengers, and shall not extinguish the lights until loading or unloading is completed and persons who must cross the highway are safely across.

School bus manufactured on or after 01/01/05 equipped with both AMBER and RED warning lights as specified in Ss.347.25(2):

- The operator shall actuate the flashing amber warning lights at least 300 feet before stopping in a 45 mile per hour or greater speed zone or at least 100 feet before stopping in a less than 45 mile per hour speed zone

School bus operators USE of flashing WARNING lights:

- a. At the point of loading or unloading, the operator, while bringing the bus to a stop, extinguish the flashing amber warning lights (not applicable to red light equipped bus only), and actuate the flashing red warning lights.
- b. After loading or unloading is completed and persons who must cross the highway are safely across, extinguish the flashing red warning lights
- c. Where the curb and sidewalk are laid on one side of the road only, the operator shall use the flashing red or flashing red and amber warning lights when loading or unloading passengers from either side

School bus operators SHALL NOT USE the flashing RED or AMBER WARNING lights in:

- Special school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the traveled portion of the highway
- Residence or business districts when pupils or other authorized passengers are to be loaded or unloaded where a sidewalk and curb are laid on both sides of the road, UNLESS required otherwise by municipal ordinance enacted under Ss.349.21(1).