

Transportation of Music Instruments on School Buses

It is important that we consider the safety of students in the event of an emergency when transporting many kinds of music instruments to and from school on buses. (Reference WAC 392-145-015(5).) All musical instruments transported in the passenger area on a school bus must be positioned in such a way that they do not block or obstruct in any way the aisle, stairwell, or emergency window exits.

If the seats to be used to transport musical instruments are required for students, then the musical instruments will not be transported on the bus.

In order to meet these safety requirements, the following procedures must be observed:

1. **Extremely large and bulky instruments shall not be carried on the bus at any time.** These include:

Tubas:



36"L x 23"W x 11.5"H

Large Drums:



36" Round x 30" H

String basses:



67"L x 24.5"W x 18"H

Baritone horns:



36"L x 17"W x 13"H

Baritone Saxes:



43.5"L x 16"W x 9.25"H

Cellos:



50"L x 18"W x 11"H

Guitars:



43"L x 18"W x 7"H

Bass guitars:



42"L x 15"W x 4.5"H

2. Moderately large and bulky instruments shall be positioned in the seat with the student. If the bus has the number of passengers to allow a single student a full seat, the student may position the instrument in the seat next to the window. To avoid problems, this should only be done in the first three or four seats from the front. These instruments include:

Violins/Violas: 31"L x 10" W x 7" H



French Horns: 26"L x 16"W x 14"H



Tenor saxes:



32"L x 12"W x 8"H

Trombones:



35"L x 11.5"W x 10"H

Bass clarinets:



35.5"L x 10"W x 7.5"H

Snare Drum:



18"Round x 9"H

3. Small instruments may be carried in the seat with the student. These instruments include:

Flutes:



16"L x 4"W x 2"H

Oboes:



13.5"L x 8"W x 4"H

Clarinets:



13"L x 8"W x 3.5"H

Alto saxes:



24"L x 10"W x 5.5"H

Trumpets:



21.5"L x 10.5"W x 6.5"H

Any instrument placed on the floor must be against the outside (window) wall, as no student should have to climb over an instrument to exit in an emergency. Leg spacing on buses range from 7" to 12". Instruments must either fit on the students lap or within the leg space of each seat. Instruments may not exceed height of the bottom of the window ledge, which ranges from 29" to 31". **Remember that emergency exits cannot be blocked.**

Careful attention to these procedures will assure safe transportation for students and their musical instruments. Students are cautioned that failure to abide by these procedures may cause the forfeiture of the privilege to transport their music instruments on a school bus.