

Transportation Department
2025-2026
Musical Instruments Protocol
Effective 12/01/2016

All musical instruments that can fit safely on a student's lap are permitted on all school bus and special purpose buses. Large instruments (larger than students can safely hold in their laps) which interfere with seating and safety of others, will not be permitted on the bus without prior permission of the Transportation Department. There are a number of factors that may play into this decision. It is best for the student to have a conversation with their driver regarding this before you try and transport the instrument and to see if prior authorization is required from the Transportation Department.

Indiana State Code (IC-9-21-12-18) states the following:

Sec. 18. (a) Whenever a school bus or special purpose bus is transporting passengers, the school bus or special purpose bus emergency escape exits, doors, emergency exit windows, roof exits, and service doors must be free of any obstruction that:

- (1) inhibits or obstructs an exit; or*
- (2) renders the means of exit hazardous.*

(b) A driver who knowingly operates a school bus or special purpose bus in violation of subsection (a) commits a Class C misdemeanor.

(c) A person who knowingly directs a driver to operate a school bus or special purpose bus in violation of subsection (a) commits a Class C misdemeanor.

Guidelines:

Moderately Large Instruments:

Moderately Large Musical Instruments such as (but not limited to) Tenor Sax, Snare Drum, French Horn, and Trombone are allowed as long as these instruments meet the following criteria:

- Any student that has these types of instrument must sit within the first 3 rows of a school bus on the left side of the bus. This will be the bus driver's discretion.
- Any instrument placed on the floor must be against the outside (window) wall, so no student has to climb over any instrument to exit in an emergency.
- Instruments must either fit on the student's lap or within the 7" leg space in front of each seat or to the left of the student.
- Student capacity may take priority over any carry-on items.

Large Musical Instruments:

Large Instruments such as (but not limited to) Baritone Sax, Cellos, Bass Clarinet, Tuba, Large Drums, and Guitars that exceed the guidelines are not allowed on the school bus or special purpose buses.

- **Note:** These type instruments ***are allowed*** if they can fall under the guidelines set forth above in the section labeled Moderately Large Musical Instruments.

REMEMBER THAT EMERGENCY EXITS CANNOT BE BLOCKED.

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