

A1 Reporting Planned Bus Capacity Utilization Chart

Bus Capacity	Kindergarten	K through 6	Middle School	7 through 9	9 through 12	k through 12
10	17	13	10	10	10	12
20	21	16	11	10	10	16
24	27	21	12	10	10	20
30	35	27	18	17	14	26
36	41	33	24	20	18	34
42	49	39	28	26	26	40
48	59	45	32	32	32	46
54	62	50	38	36	36	50
60	75	57	42	40	40	52
66	83	65	48	44	44	54
72	91	71	52	50	48	60
78	98	76	58	56	52	66
84	105	81	62	60	58	72
90	117	89	64	62	60	78

For purposes of Planned Bus Capacity Utilization, the chart above should be used as a “guideline” when planning capacity utilization, and when filling out the A1 report identifying Bus Design Capacity. It is understood that the actual “in use” capacity of the bus will vary according to factors that determine the size of the students being transported. The chart was created using the lower end of the capacity ratings used to determine Gross Volume Weight (GVW) of students and driver. For adjusting bus design capacities for special equipment needed for a child with disabilities, use the capacity listed divided by the original number of seats and adjust design capacity for the loss of each seat that is removed.

The following practical application information is from a position paper on “School Bus Seat Capacity” published by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services in October 1999.

...In practice, school buses transport students of various sizes, typically from pre-schoolers to 12th graders. While a 39-inch seat may safely accommodate three pre-schoolers and/or primary school-aged children, it may not safely accommodate the same number of older children. Since the size of growing children varies, the number of pupils that can safely occupy a school bus seat also changes. Consequently, the “in use” capacity of a school bus varies depending on the size of the pupils transported. The use of a child safety seat for an infant or toddler, or special equipment needed for a child with disabilities, may further impact the “in-use” capacity of a school bus...

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services believes all children riding in school buses, or other buses used to transport pupils to and from school or school-related activities, should be safely seated facing forward. In addition, the State Directors Association believes there should be adequate space on the seat for the child to be seated completely within the seating compartment...