

Registration

The owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer may annually apply for registration under Transportation Code 502.451 and is exempt from the payment of a registration fee under Transportation Code Chapter 502 if the vehicle is owned by and used exclusively in the service of the United States, this state, or a county, municipality, or school district in this state. An application for registration under this section must be made by a person having the authority to certify that the vehicle meets the exemption requirements.

Transp. Code 502.453

Identification

A motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is the property of and used exclusively by any institution of higher education, including a college district, must have the name of the institution printed on the side of the vehicle. The inscription must be in a color sufficiently different from the body of the vehicle and must be of letters of sufficient height so that the lettering is plainly legible at a distance of not less than 100 feet. This requirement does not apply to a motor vehicle used by a peace officer commissioned under Education Code Chapter 51, Subchapter E or the chancellor or president of an institution of higher education. *Education Code 51.932*

Student Travel

Each governing board of an institution of higher education, including each college district, shall adopt a policy regulating travel that is undertaken by one or more students presently enrolled at the institution to reach an activity or event that is located more than 25 miles from the institution that is organized and sponsored by the institution and that is:

1. Funded by the institution, and the travel is undertaken using a vehicle owned or leased by the institution; or
2. Required by a student organization registered at the institution.

The governing board shall seek advice and comment from the faculty and students of the institution before adopting any policy. The policy must contain provisions that address:

1. Different modes of travel likely to be used by students; and
2. Safety issues related to student travel, including:
 - a. Use of seat belts or other safety devices;
 - b. Passenger capacity; and
 - c. For the person providing transportation services:
 - (1) Qualifications and training required to operate that particular mode of travel; and

(2) Fatigue at the time of travel.

The governing board shall make the policy available to the public by publishing the policy in the college district's catalog and by any other method the board considers appropriate.

The board shall file a copy of the policy, and any amendments to that policy, with the Coordinating Board.

Education Code 51.950

**Transportation of
Public School
Students**

A school bus operated by a junior college may also be used to transport public school students if it is convenient. If students of a local public school district are transported to and from school on a bus operated by a junior college and the operator is under 21 years of age, the selection of the operator must be approved by the principal of the public school whose students are transported on that bus. This section does not apply to the operator of a vehicle operated under a registration certificate issued under Transportation Code Chapter 643. *Transp. Code 521.023(b)–(c)*

Driver Qualifications

A person who is 18 years of age or older and who is licensed by the Texas Department of Public Safety to operate a motor vehicle as a school bus may operate the motor vehicle for the transportation of junior college students and employees to and from school or official school activities. This section does not apply to the operator of a vehicle operated under a registration certificate issued under Transportation Code Chapter 643. *Transp. Code 521.023(a), (c)*

**Use of Wireless
Devices**

An operator may not use a wireless communication device while operating a school bus or passenger bus with a minor passenger on the bus unless the bus is stopped. The prohibition does not apply to an operator of a school bus or passenger bus using a wireless communication device in the performance of the operator's duties as a bus driver and in a manner similar to using a two-way radio. *Transp. Code 545.425(c), (e)*