



Georgia Department of Education

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED NEW RULE RULE 160-5-3-.17

USE OF ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF SPECIFIED STUDENT GROUPS

The proposed new rule will be titled *Use of Alternative Vehicles for the Transport of Specified Students Groups*.

Senate Bill 159 from the 2021 Legislative Session expanded the definition of vehicles that can be used to transport students under certain conditions. Students who either (1) have transportation needs documented in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or (2) may currently lack, or during the previous academic year lacked, a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as described under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 11301, et seq., can be transported to and from school and school related activities using a vehicle designed by the manufacturer to transport a maximum of eight students and not less than five students. This new rule establishes the minimum standards and requirements, which are delineated separately from requirements of school buses, for maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of such vehicles; minimum qualifications of the drivers of such vehicles; and other requirements deemed necessary.