

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Transportation Directors

FROM: Mike Bullman
Director, Office of Transportation

DATE: August 19, 2025

RE: Speed Limit Requirements

As we begin another school year and continue prioritizing the safety of our students and staff, this memo serves as a reminder of the legal requirements for the safe operation of school buses, including Multi-Function School Activity Buses (MFSABs). Outlined below are legal speed limit requirements for public school buses.

S.C. Code Ann. § 59-67-515

- No public school bus may be operated in excess of forty-five miles per hour, except under the following conditions:
 - When traveling on a highway with a posted speed limit above fifty-five miles per hour.
 - When traveling to or from special events on interstate or state primary highways with written authorization for the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE).
- Under no circumstances may a public school bus exceed fifty-five miles per hour.

Guidance from the SCDE School Bus Driver Training Handbook

- Drivers must always operate within the posted speed limit and adjust speed based on road, weather, and traffic conditions.
- When operating an MFSAB, the maximum speed is forty-five miles per hour, unless:
 - The posted speed limit is above fifty-five miles per hour, in which case up to fifty-five miles per hour is permitted.

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- Written authorization has been granted by SCDE for travel to special events on interstate or state primary highways, allowing speeds up to fifty-five miles per hour.
- Speeds above fifty-five miles per hour are strictly prohibited under all circumstances.

We urge all districts to review these requirements with transportation staff and ensure compliance to maintain the highest standards of safety.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Bullman at 803-734-8248 or mbullman@ed.sc.gov or your assigned Area/County Supervisor.