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- 1310.12 Required use of School Buses or Allowable Alternate Vehicles.
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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 9801 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 66 FR 5311, Jan. 18, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 1310.1 Purpose.

Under the authority of sections 640(i) and 645A(b)(9) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801 *et seq.*), this part prescribes regulations on safety features and the safe operation of vehicles used to transport children participating in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Under the authority of sections 644(a) and (c) and 645A(b)(9) of the Head Start Act, this part also requires Head Start, Early Head Start, and delegate agencies to provide training in pedestrian safety and to make reasonable efforts to coordinate transportation resources to control costs and to improve the quality and the availability of transportation services.

§ 1310.2 Applicability.

(a) This rule applies to all Head Start and Early Head Start agencies, and their delegate agencies (hereafter, agency or agencies), including those that provide transportation services, with the exceptions provided in this section, regardless of whether such transportation is provided directly on agency owned or leased vehicles or through arrangement with a private or public transportation provider. Transportation services to children served under the home-based Option for Head Start and Early Head Start services are excluded from the requirements of 45 CFR 1310.12, 1310.15(c), and 1310.16. Except when there is an applicable State or local requirement that sets a higher standard on a matter covered by

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this part, agencies must comply with requirements of this part.

(b)(1) Sections 1310.12(a) and 1310.22(a) of this part are effective December 20, 2006.

(2) This paragraph and paragraph (c) of this section, the definition of child restraint systems in Sec. 1310.3 of this part, and Sec. 1310.15(a) are effective November 1, 2006. Sections 1310.11 and 1310.15(c) of this part are effective June 21, 2004. Section 1310.12(b) of this part is effective February 20, 2001. All other provisions of this part are effective January 18, 2002.

(c) Effective November 1, 2006, an agency may request a waiver of specific requirements of this part, except for the requirements of this paragraph. Requests for waivers must be made in writing to the responsible Health and Human Services (HHS) official, as part of an agency's annual application for financial assistance or amendment thereto, based on good cause. "Good cause" for a waiver will exist when adherence to a requirement of this part would itself create a safety hazard in the circumstances faced by the agency, or when compliance with requirements related to child restraint systems (Secs. 1310.11, 1310.15(a)) or bus monitors (Sec. 1310.15(c)) will result in a significant disruption to the program and the agency demonstrates that waiving such requirements is in the best interest of the children involved. In addition, the responsible HHS official shall have the authority to grant waivers of the requirements related to child restraint systems (Sec. 1310.11, 1310.15(a)) or bus monitors (Sec. 1310.15(c)) that are retroactive to October 1, 2006 during the period from November 1, 2006 to October 30, 2007. The responsible HHS official is not authorized to waive any requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) made applicable to any class of vehicle under 49 CFR part 571. The responsible HHS official shall have the right to require such documentation as the official deems necessary in support of a request for a waiver. Approvals of waiver requests must be in writing, be signed by the responsible

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HHS official, and be based on good cause.

[66 FR 5311, Jan. 18, 2001, as amended at 69 FR 2517, Jan. 16, 2004; 71 FR 58535, Oct. 4, 2006]

§ 1310.3 Definitions.

Agency as used in this regulation means a Head Start or Early Head Start or delegate agency unless otherwise designated.

Agency Providing Transportation Services means an agency providing transportation services, either directly or through another arrangement with a private or public transportation provider, to children enrolled in its Head Start or Early Head Start program.

Allowable Alternate Vehicle means a vehicle designed for carrying eleven or more people, including the driver, that meets all the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable to school buses, except 49 CFR 571.108 and 571.131.

Bus monitor means a person with specific responsibilities for assisting the driver in ensuring the safety of the children while they ride, board, or exit the vehicle and for assisting the driver during emergencies.

Child Restraint System means any device designed to restrain, seat, or position children that meets the current requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 213, Child Restraint Systems, 49 CFR 571.213, for children in the weight category established under the regulation, or any device designed to restrain, seat, or position children, other than a Type I seat belt as defined at 49 CFR 571.209, for children not in the weight category currently established by 49 CFR 571.213.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) means a license issued by a State or other jurisdiction, in accordance with the standards contained in 49 CFR part 383, to an individual which authorizes the individual to operate a class of commercial motor vehicles.

Delegate Agency means a local public or private not-profit or for-profit agency to which a Head Start or Early Head Start agency has delegated all or part of its responsibility for operation of a Head Start program.

Early Head Start Agency means a public or private non-profit or for-profit agency or delegate agency designated

to operate an Early Head Start program pursuant to Section 645A of the Head Start Act.

Early Head Start Program means a program of services provided by an Early Head Start Agency funded under the Head Start Act.

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) means the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration's standards for motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment (49 CFR part 571) established under section 30111 of Title 49, United States Code.

Fixed route means the established routes to be traveled on a regular basis by vehicles that transport children to and from Head Start or Early Head Start program activities, and which include specifically designated stops where children board or exit the vehicle.

Head Start Agency, means a local public or private non-profit or for-profit agency designated to operate a Head Start program pursuant to Section 641 of the Head Start Act.

Head Start Program means a program of services provided by a Head Start agency or delegate agency and funded under the Head Start Act.

National Driver Register means the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's automated system for assisting State driver license officials in obtaining information regarding the driving records of individuals who have been denied licenses for cause; had their licenses denied for cause, had their licenses canceled, revoked, or suspended for cause, or have been convicted of certain serious driving offenses.

National Standards for School Buses and School Bus Operations means the recommendations resulting from the Eleventh National Conference on School Transportation, May 1990, published by the National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois.

Reverse beeper means a device which automatically sounds an intermittent alarm whenever the vehicle is engaged in reverse.

School Bus means a motor vehicle designed for carrying 11 or more persons (including the driver) and which complies with the Federal Motor Vehicle