**Proposed School Bus Endorsement Curriculum**

**THEORY**

**Danger Zones and Use of Mirrors**

This unit provides trainees information regarding the Danger Zones that exist around the school bus and the techniques to ensure the safety of those around the bus. These techniques include correct mirror adjustment and usage. The types of mirrors and their use are discussed as well as the requirements found in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 111. Trainees are made aware of the dangers of “dart-outs.” Trainees are also instructed on the importance of training students how to keep out of the Danger Zone when around school buses and the techniques for doing so.

**Loading and Unloading**

This unit provides trainees with an overview of proper loading and unloading procedures in student transportation. Trainees are instructed on the state and local laws and procedures for loading and unloading as well as the required procedures for students waiting at a bus stop and crossing the roadway at a bus stop. Trainees are instructed on what to look for when approaching the bus stop as well as proper loading and unloading procedures during routes and at schools. Special dangers involved in loading and unloading are discussed, including procedures to ensure the Danger Zone is clear and that no student has been caught in the doorway prior to moving the vehicle. Instruction is also included on proper use of student loading and unloading lights, stop arms, crossing gates, and safe operation of the door during loading and unloading. Instruction is provided in the risks involved with leaving students unattended on a school bus as well as the proper techniques for checking the bus for sleeping children and lost items at the end of each route.

**Emergency Exit and Evacuation**

In this unit, trainees receive instruction on their role in safely evacuating the bus in an emergency. Training includes proper methods and procedures, including those required by state and local regulation. The procedures for planning for emergencies in advance and for proper evacuation are covered. Trainees also receive instruction on how to train students to safely evacuate the bus, including students on field and activity trips who may not be familiar with the procedures.

**Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings**

In this unit, trainees are made aware of the dangers trains present and the importance of the school bus driver and students strictly following railroad crossing procedures. Instruction is given on the types of crossings, warning signs and devices, and state and local procedures and regulations for school buses when crossing railroad-highway grade crossings.

**Student Management**

In this unit, trainees receive instruction on their responsibility and role in managing student behavior on the bus to ensure the safety and rights of others are maintained. Specific student management techniques are discussed, including warning signs of bullying and the techniques for managing student behavior and administering discipline. Trainees learn techniques to avoid becoming distracted by student behavior while driving, especially when crossing railroad tracks and during loading and unloading. Trainees also learn techniques for handling serious problems arising from student behavior.

**Antilock Braking Systems**

In this unit, trainees are provided an overview of anti-lock braking systems (ABS). Topics discussed include which vehicles are required to have ABS, how ABS helps the driver, techniques for braking with ABS, procedures to follow if ABS systems malfunction, and safety reminders.

**Special Safety Considerations**

This unit covers special safety considerations and equipment in school bus operations. Topics discussed include use of strobe lights, driving in high winds, safe backing techniques, and preventing tail swing accidents.

**Pre and Post-Trip Inspections**

In this unit trainees receive an overview of the pre and post-trip inspection requirements unique to school bus equipment, such as mirrors, stop arms, crossing arms, emergency exits, fire extinguishers, passenger seats, first aid kits, interior lights, and internal vehicle conditions. State and local procedures for inspection of school bus equipment are also discussed.

**School Bus Security**

This unit covers the security issues facing school bus drivers. Trainees are made aware of potential security threats, techniques for preventing and responding to security threats, how to recognize and report suspicious behavior, and what to do in the event of a hijacking or attack on a school bus.

**Route and Stop Reviews**

In this unit, trainees are made aware of the importance of planning for their routes prior to beginning driving to avoid distraction while on the road. They learn techniques for reviewing routes and stops as well as state and local procedures for reporting hazards along the route and at bus stops.

**Night Operation**

In this unit, trainees learn about the special challenges presented when operating a school bus at night and the techniques for driving safely during times of darkness.

**RANGE/ROAD**

**Danger Zones and Use of Mirrors**

This unit provides trainees with practical, hands-on training regarding the Danger Zones that exist around the school bus and the techniques to ensure the safety of those around the bus. They are provided an opportunity to practice mirror adjustment and usage. The types of mirrors and their use are shown and cones are set up to demonstrate the requirements of FMVSS 111.

**Loading and Unloading**

This unit provides trainees with practical, hands-on training on proper loading and unloading procedures in student transportation. Trainees practice the loading and unloading techniques learned in the classroom. Trainees practice checking the vehicle for sleeping children and lost items at the end of the route.

**Emergency Exit and Evacuation**

In this unit, trainees practice their role in safely evacuating the bus in an emergency.

**Special Safety Considerations**

In this unit trainees practice safe backing techniques and practice avoiding tail swing accidents by using reference points when making turns.

**Pre and Post-Trip Inspections**

In this unit trainees practice pre and post-trip inspections of school-bus specific equipment, such as mirrors, stop arms, crossing arms, emergency exits, fire extinguishers, passenger seats, first aid kits, interior lights, and internal vehicle conditions.

**Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings**

In this unit, trainees practice proper procedures for safely crossing railroad and highway grade crossings in a school bus.