



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE**

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF  
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

**DATE OF REPORT**

11/6/2019

**DVN**

002244324

**FACILITY NAME**

GROWING MINDS ACADEMY & DAYCARE, LLC

**FACILITY ADDRESS**

11889 BENHAM RD

**CITY**

ST LOUIS

**ZIP CODE**

63138-1308

**PHONE NUMBER**

(314) 741-0700

**COUNTY**

ST LOUIS

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**

WALLACE, SHALINDA

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.212 (3)(A)

All children shall be seated in a permanent seat and restrained by seat belts or child restraint devices as required by Missouri law.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

The allegation is that one of the staff from Townsend Elementary (6645 Parker Rd) called and reported that Growing Minds Academy picks up 14 children from their school. When they arrive there are already 3-4 students and 2 adults (driver and assistant) on the van. The reporter stated that the children are on each others laps, not in car seats or seat belts. The children are picked up in a 12 passenger grey van. The children are dropped off at the school by the daycare bus at 8:25am and picked up by the daycare from the school in the afternoon about 4:05pm. The reported stated that this has been occurring all school year long.

Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Shalinda Wallace went to the facility and inspected both vans used for transportation . Both vans inspected were fifteen passenger vans. The seat belts in both vehicles were operable. The facility had up to date van logs for the children who are transported. CCFS Wallace interviewed two school age children who both ride the van to and from school. Both children stated that no children sit on other children's laps that was reported by the school. Child A stated that she wears her seat belt sometimes and Child B said that he does not wear his seat belt. Both children stated that they are aware that they are supposed to wear their seat belts. The Assistant Director Artrice Jason-Mason and the Director Dominique Wallace also stated that children do not sit on other children's laps. Both Ms. Dominique and Ms. Artrice stated that the number of children that are picked up from Townsend elementary fluctuates from day to day . They stated that the most children that are picked up from Townsend elementary are eleven children . Both deny that fourteen children are picked up from Townsend at one time. The van logs also reflect that the number of children picked up from Townsend fluctuates from day to day. The Director Dominique Wallace and the Assistant Director Artrice Jason-Mason both stated that children are always in seat belts to their knowledge and that they all know that they must put their seat belts on before pulling off .

The reporter who initially called in the report did not identify herself and chose not to be interviewed. The Secretary Ms. Catina Cook stated that since reporting the daycare, the facility has fixed the transportation issue. She stated that they do not arrive with other children in the van and that they appear to have the children putting on their seat belts before pulling off . There is no information to validate all of the information that the school reported such as if the children were sitting on each other's laps because the children and the van drivers stated that this is not true.

Based off information gathered during the investigation , the allegation reported about children not wearing their seat belts, will be substantiated.

19 CSR 30-62.212 (2)(3)(A) which states, "All children shall be seated in a permanent seat and restrained by seat belts or child restraint devices as required by Missouri Law," was violated.

This rule was violated in that: CCFS Wallace interviewed two school age children who both ride the van to and from school . Child A stated that she wears her seat belt sometimes and Child B stated that he does not wear his seat belt . Both children stated that they are aware that they are supposed to wear their seat belts.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES****CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding Transportation. The facility must provide the Section for Child Care Regulation with a statement, signed by all staff (paid employees or unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

10/6/2020

**CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

All staff and volunteers must obtain one (1) clock hour of approved training on Transportation. Training may be obtained from the Missouri Workshop Calendar. The training calendar can be found at <http://www.moworkshopcalendar.org/>. The local Child Care Aware agency may also assist in finding training. The Child Care Aware website can be found at <http://www.childcareaware.org/>. Certificates of attendance shall be provided to the Section for Child Care Regulation.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

3/3/2020

**DISPOSITION**

SUBSTANTIATED

**DISPOSITION DATE**

2/5/2020

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**

KOCH, DENISE ELAYNE