

CPS NEWS



National Association for Pupil Transportation

2025 NAPT Statement Seat Belts & School Buses

The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) is an organization made up of public and private student transportation service providers and companies that support safe school transportation for school age children. Transportation is an integral component of education, and every day, nearly 500,000 buses carry more than 25 million students to and from school and school-related activities.

The NAPT recently released a statement on seat belts on school buses. The statement was unanimously adopted to empower members to make decisions that meet the needs and priorities of their communities and schools.

The new statement does not take an official position on the overall viability or efficacy of seat belts, but it does clarify that:

- (1) Only three-point lap-and-shoulder belts be installed, and
- (2) Lap belts are insufficient for safety purposes.



The NAPT statement draws upon the work that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has conducted after several school bus fatality crashes. NTSB has strongly recommended that the industry install and properly use seat belts (lap-shoulder belts) on school buses. They have demonstrated through their accident re-creations that lives were lost in the absence of seat belts, and that lives would have been saved and injuries prevented if seat belts had been in place.

The NAPT Statement on Seat Belts on School Buses: Evolving for Safety can be found at <https://www.napt.org/files/NAPT%20Statement%20on%20Seat%20Belts%20on%20School%20Buses.pdf>.



NTSB: Seat Belts on School Buses



School buses use a unique technology called compartmentalization—a passive occupant protection system to protect children in a crash. School bus seats are made with an energy-absorbing steel inner structure and high, padded seat backs, and are secured to the school bus floor. Students are protected within the seating compartment much like eggs in a carton. NTSB crash investigations have found that compartmentalization alone is not enough to prevent all injuries and that for some of the children involved, a seat belt could have lessened their injuries or even saved their lives.

As a result of these school bus crash investigations, the NTSB believes—and recommends—that when investing in new school buses, the purchased vehicles should provide children with the best protection available, which includes lap and shoulder seat belts.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 2025 NAPT Statement Seat Belts on School Buses
 - NTSB: Seat Belts on School Buses
- FMVSS: Occupant Protection, Seat Belt Reminder Systems, Controls and Displays
- FMVSS: Child Restraint Systems, Child Restraint Anchorage Systems
- Upcoming Webinars
- TIPP Upcoming Trainings
 - NSC Children in Hot Cars Online Course

TIPP STAFF

Statewide: Angela Osterhuber
484-446-3036
aosterhuber@paaap.org

Central PA: Kelly Whitaker
814-943-3360
kwhitaker@paaap.org

Northeast PA: Cathy Connors
570-471-3026
cconnors@paaap.org

Northwest PA: Vacant
1-800-CAR-BELT for help

Southeast PA: Teresa Rychlak
484-446-3078
trychlak@paaap.org

Southwest PA: Kristen Urso
412-885-0266
kurso@paaap.org



Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards

Occupant Crash Protection, Seat Belt Reminder Systems, Controls and Displays

Federal Register/Vol. 90, No. 2/Friday, 1/3/2025 / Rules and Regulations / <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-03/pdf/2024-30340.pdf>

ACTION: Final rule; delay of effective date. **The effective date of the rule amending 49 CFR part 571 published January 3, 2025, was delayed until March 20, 2025. The delay in effective date did not affect compliance dates.** <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-02-14/pdf/2025-02584.pdf>

Compliance date: The compliance date of this final rule is September 1, 2026, for the front seat belt warning system requirements and September 1, 2027, for the rear seat belt warning system requirements, with optional early compliance permitted.

Summary: This final rule amends the existing seat belt warning provisions in FMVSS No. 208 and has two main components.

1. A seat belt warning for rear vehicle seats, and
2. Updates and enhances the seat belt warning requirements for the driver's seat and extends these requirements to the front outboard passenger seat.

The requirements apply (with some exceptions) to passenger cars, trucks, most buses, and multipurpose passenger vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less.

Rear Seat Belt Reminder Requirements: The new requirements have four main elements.

- Visual warning on vehicle start-up to inform the driver of the status of the rear seat belts.
 - The final rule requires a visual warning that informs the driver how many, or which rear seat belts are in use and/or not in use.
 - The warning must activate when the ignition (or, for electric vehicles the propulsion system) is started, and lasts for at least 60 seconds.
 - No visual warning is required if the system determines that there are no occupied rear seats or if there are no occupied rear seats with a seat belt that is not in use.
- **Audio-visual change-of-status warning:** An audio-visual warning is required whenever a fastened rear seat belt is unfastened while the vehicle is in forward or reverse drive mode. The warning must last for at least 30 seconds or until the seat belt is re-fastened. The audible portion of the warning may be temporarily paused to allow another audible safety warning alerting the driver to take immediate action.
- **Requirements related to electrical connections:** Readily removable rear vehicle seats must either automatically establish the electrical connections when the seat is put in place or, if a manual connection is required, the connectors must be readily accessible.
 - Vehicles equipped with certain types of seat belt warning systems are additionally required to provide a visual warning to the driver if a proper electrical connection has not been established.
- **Owner's manual requirements:** The vehicle owner's manual must describe the warning system's features, including the location and format of the visual warnings. It must also include instructions on how to make any manual electrical connections for readily removable seats.



Ford Seat Belt Minder



Honda Seat Belt Minder

If a symbol or number is used to indicate to the driver how many or which rear seat belts are in use, the color of the illuminated symbol or number must be green.

If a symbol or number is used to indicate to the driver how many or which rear seat belts are not in use, or how many or which rear seat belts have undergone a change of status from in use to not in use, the color of the illuminated symbol or number must be red.

Front Outboard Seat Belt Warning Requirements: The final rule includes several changes and enhancements to the seat belt warning requirements for the front outboard seats. The new requirements have two main elements.

1. **Seat belt warning now required for front outboard passenger seat.** This final rule requires a seat belt warning for the front outboard passenger seat. Currently, only the driver's seat is required to have a seat belt warning, although almost all vehicles now provide a seat belt warning for the front outboard passenger seat as well.
2. **Enhanced audio-visual seat belt warning.** The final rule requires a longer-duration audio-visual warning than is currently required for the driver's seat belt.
 - A visual warning is required whenever the ignition switch is in the "on" or "start" position, the seat is occupied, and the seat belt is not in use. The warning must be visible to the driver.
 - A two-phase audible warning is required.
 - First Phase: The warning must activate when the ignition/propulsion system is activated, the seat is occupied, and the seat belt is not in use. The audible warning must last for at least 30 seconds, unless the seat belt that triggered the warning is fastened or the second phase audible warning is activated within that time.
 - Second Phase: The audible warning must activate, and remain active, whenever the seat is occupied, the seat belt is not in use, and the vehicle speed is at least 6.2 mph. The audible warning may be temporarily paused to allow another audible safety warning alerting the driver to take immediate action.

Table 2 to §571.101 Identifiers for Controls, Telltales, and Indicators with No Color or Illumination Requirements

Column 1 ITEM	Column 2 SYMBOL	Column 3 WORD(S) OR ABBREVIATION
Front Seat Belt Unfastened Telltale		Fasten Belts or Fasten Seat Belts

PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) Child Restraint Systems, Child Restraint Anchorage Systems

Federal Register/Vol. 90, No. 4/Tuesday, 1/7/2025 / Rules and Regulations / <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-07/pdf/2024-31142.pdf>

ACTION: Final rule; delay of effective date. **The effective date of the rule amending 49 CFR parts 571 and 585 published January 7, 2025, was delayed until March 20, 2025. The delay in effective date did not affect compliance dates.** <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-02-14/pdf/2025-02584.pdf>

Compliance date: This final rule adopts a 3-year phase-in period to comply with the updated requirements in FMVSS No. 225. The phase-in begins on September 1, 2028, and requires that 20 percent of a manufacturer's applicable vehicles produced from September 1, 2028, to August 31, 2029, comply with the updated FMVSS No. 225, followed by 50 percent from September 1, 2029, to August 31, 2030, and 100 percent on and after September 1, 2030. Early compliance is permitted.

Summary: This final rule amends FMVSS No. 225; Child Restraint Anchorage Systems and FMVSS No. 213b; Child Restraint Systems to improve ease-of-use of LATCH, improve correct use of child restraint systems in vehicles, and maintain or improve the correct use and effectiveness of child restraint systems (CRSs) in motor vehicles.

1. Amends FMVSS No. 225 to adopt a "clearance angle" and lower "anchorage depth".

- Clearance angle for each lower anchorage of at least 54°. This reduces interference from other vehicle parts that can make it hard to attach the CRS lower anchorage connector.
- Anchorage depth within the seat bight is no more than 25 millimeters (mm), approximately one inch.

The clearance angle and anchorage depth requirements will improve ease of use for the consumer securing a car seat with the child restraint anchorage system.

2. Modifies the handheld tools used to measure clearance angle and anchorage depth.

3. Restricts tether anchorages from being placed under a vehicle seat or hidden under vehicle components other than a marked tether anchorage cover.

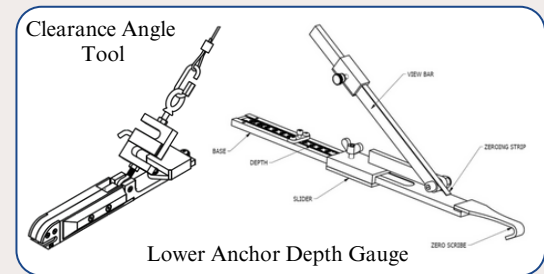
- Restricts how close the tether anchorage can be from the CRS.
 - Tether anchorages located too-close to the tether anchorage connector on the CRS can make it impossible to tighten the tether strap properly, but the rule does not specify location requirements.

4. Amends FMVSS No. 225 to make tether anchorages easier to use by standardizing the configuration of the anchorage such that it is "a rigid bar of any cross-section shape." The rule allows vehicles with unique space limitations in the vehicle interior, such as buses, light trucks, and convertibles, to have flexible anchorages that can also be used as a tether strap routing device.

5. Standardizes the markings that indicate the location and presence of the lower anchorages and the tether anchorage.

- Amends FMVSS Nos. 225 and 213b to require vehicles and CRSs to use a standardized symbol to more clearly identify vehicle anchorages and CRS components that attach to those anchorages. Consumers can easily look for the standardized marks and "match up" the symbols on the vehicle to the symbols on the child restraint.

6. Amends FMVSS 213b to limit the length of the tether hook and attachment hardware on child restraint systems to not exceed 165 mm, approximately 6.5 inches.



Upcoming Webinars:



"Improving Child Passenger Safety In Our School Buses"

Date: April 24, 2025 Time: 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

Katia Dubas from IMMI will discuss the safety provided to children being transported on school buses and the safety improvements that have evolved over time.

Register here:

<https://pakidstravelsafe.org/webinar-improving-child-passenger-safety-in-our-school-buses/>



Save the Date: "Child Passenger Safety in Ambulances"

Date: May 16, 2025 Time: 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

Speaker: Robert M. Carpenter, Executive Director

Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.



"Bump Ahead: Ensuring Maternal and Fetal Safety on the Road"

Date: May 6, 2025 Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) are the leading cause of fetal death related to maternal trauma, and crash-injuries to a fetus can be significant, with life-long consequences. Pregnant women involved in MVCs are at higher risk of death and complications than those not in crashes, and they require specialized assessment and procedures after a crash. In this webinar, healthcare and safety experts will describe the mechanisms of injury to the mother and fetus in a MVC, triage considerations, potential health outcomes to mother and baby in and after the crash, and anticipatory guidance. Results from a study at the University of Colorado on pregnant women and buckling up will be presented with implications for clinicians and safety advocates.

- Continuing education credit has been requested for Maryland Nurses and Maryland EMS and is pending approval; Child Passenger Safety Technicians are approved for one CEU.

Child Passenger Safety Trainings

Certification Courses

The CPS Certification course provides the training necessary to become a certified CPS technician. This four-day course establishes CPS certification for a two-year cycle. The fee is \$95. To register, go to cert.safekids.org.

Luzerne County*

Course ID: PA2025011379
 Dates: April 30 - May 2, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 McCarthy Tire Service
 340 Kidder Street
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
 Contact: Cathy Connors
 Phone: 570-471-3026
 Email: cconnors@paaap.org
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Philadelphia County*

Course ID: PA20250402423
 Dates: May 5 - 7, 2025
 Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
 St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
 160 E. Erie Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19134
 Contact: Teresa Rychlak
 Phone: 484-446-3078
 Email: trychlak@paaap.org
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Union County*

Course ID: PA20250311359
 Dates: May 12 - 14, 2025
 Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 WellSpan Urgent Care Conference Room
 7095 Westbranch Highway
 Lewisburg, PA 17837
 Contact: Deana Carson
 Phone: 570-768-3201
 Email: deana.carson@evanhospital.com
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Chester County

Course ID: PA20250414451
 Dates: June 9 - 12, 2025
 Times: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Chester County Public Safety Training Campus
 137 Modena Road
 Coatesville, PA 19320
 Contact: Lori McCloskey
 Phone: 610-344-5557
 Email: lmccloskey@chesco.org

York County*

Course ID: PA20250203192
 Dates: June 24 - 27, 2025
 Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Newberry Township Police Department
 1895 Old Trail Road
 Etters, PA 17319
 Contact: Missy Sweitzer
 Phone: 717-840-2330
 Email: mmsweitzer@yorkcountypa.gov
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Berks County*

Course ID: PA2025010442
 Date: August 4 - 7, 2025
 Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 AAA Reading Berks Lower Level Conference Room
 920 Van Reed Road
 Contact: Cheryl Gouker
 Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
 Email: cgouker@aaardgberks.com
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Dauphin County

Course ID: PA202412301167
 Date: September 9 - 12, 2025
 Paxtonia Fire Company
 125 S. Johnson Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17112
 Contact: Angela Mountz
 Phone: 717-982-7402
 Email: afickesmountz@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

Allegheny County*

Course ID: PA20250128161
 Date: October 6 - 9, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Penn Hills EMS
 102 Duff Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15235
 Contact: Kristen Urso
 Phone: 412-885-0266
 Email: kurso@paaap.org
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Cumberland County

Course ID: PA202412301168
 Dates: October 14 - 17, 2025
 Times: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Hampden Township Fire Station
 1200 Good Hope Road
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
 Contact: Shannon Depatto
 Phone: 717-531-7233
 Email: sdepatto@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

Allegheny County*

Course ID: PA20250128160
 Date: December 8 - 11, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Ohio Township Volunteer Fire Company
 1520 Roosevelt Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 Contact: Kristen Urso
 Phone: 412-885-0266
 Email: kurso@paaap.org
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.



Renewal Courses

The CPS Renewal course is for CPS technicians with an expired certification. The one-day course allows recertification for a two-year cycle. The fee is \$95. To register, go to cert.safekids.org.

Washington County*

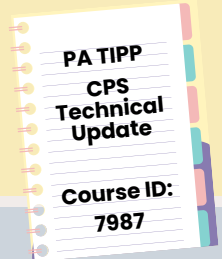
Course ID: PA20250203195
 Date: May 16, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Peters Fire Department
 245 E. McMurray Road
 McMurray, PA 15317
 Contact: Kristen Urso
 Phone: 412-885-0266
 Email: kurso@paaap.org
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Berks County*

Course ID: PA2025010441
 Date: July 25, 2025
 Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 AAA Reading Berks Lower Level Conference Room
 920 Van Reed Road
 Contact: Cheryl Gouker
 Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
 Email: cgouker@aaardgberks.com
 *Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Lehigh County

Course ID: PA20250205198
 Date: August 27, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 LVHN Parent Education Classroom
 1243 S. Cedar Crest Boulevard
 Suite 303
 Allentown, PA 18103
 Contact: Teresa Rychlak
 Phone: 484-446-3036
 Email: trychlak@paaap.org



PA TIPP Child Passenger Safety Technical Update Classes

Class is pre-approved for 6 CEUs toward CPS Recertification. Contact your TIPP regional coordinator if you are interested in hosting or attending a CPS Technical Update.

PA TIPP instructors are approved as Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Providers. EMTs can receive 6 EMS continuing education credits for attending the class.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend one of the following courses.

Montgomery County

Date: April 22, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Abington Township Public Safety Training Center
 2200 Florey Lane
 Abington, PA 19001
 Contact: Teresa Rychlak
 Phone: 484-446-3078
 Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Allegheny County

Date: April 28, 2025
 Moon Township Police Department
 1000 Beaver Grade Road
 Moon Township, PA 15108
 Contact: Kristen Urso
 Phone: 412-885-0266
 Email: kurso@paaap.org

Monroe County

Date: May 13, 2025
 Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
 Monroe County EMA
 100 Gypsum Road
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360
 Contact: Cathy Connors
 Phone: 570-471-3026
 Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Washington County

Date: May 15, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Peters Fire Department
 245 E. McMurray Road
 McMurray, PA 15317
 Contact: Kristen Urso
 Phone: 412-885-0266
 Email: kurso@paaap.org

Chester County

Date: June 18, 2025
 West Whiteland Fire Company
 227 Crest Ave
 Exton, PA 19341
 Contact: Teresa Rychlak
 Phone: 484-446-3078
 Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Berks County

Date: June 26, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 AAA Reading-Berks
 920 Van Reed Road
 Reading, PA 19610
 Contact: Teresa Rychlak
 Phone: 484-446-3078
 Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Lehigh County

Date: September 4, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Lehigh Valley Health Network
 1243 S. Cedar Crest Boulevard
 Suite 303 - Parent & Family Education Classroom A
 Allentown, PA 18103
 Contact: Teresa Rychlak
 Phone: 484-446-3078
 Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Lycoming County

Date: October 2, 2025
 Time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
 Montoursville Borough Building
 617 North Loyalsock Avenue
 Montoursville, PA 17754
 Contact: Cathy Connors
 Phone: 570-471-3026
 Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Luzerne County

Date: October 3, 2025
 Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
 Back Mountain Emergency Services Building
 Corner of Route 118 and Ambrose Rd.
 Lehman, PA 18612
 Contact: Cathy Connors
 Phone: 570-471-3026
 Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Lackawanna County

Date: October 16, 2025
 Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
 Cottage Hose Ambulance Services
 2 Greenfield Road
 Carbondale, PA 18407
 Contact: Cathy Connors
 Phone: 570-471-3026
 Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Prevent Hot Car Deaths!



- This course can be completed in about 10 minutes, the same amount of time it takes a car interior to heat up to dangerous temperatures.
- Once completed, you will be equipped with new knowledge and effective tools to help prevent children's deaths in hot cars.
- <https://www.cpsboard.org/heatstroke-prevention/>

PA TIPP
 661 Moore Road
 Suite 200
 King of Prussia, PA 19406
www.pakidstravelsafe.org



Follow us!

www.facebook.com/pakidstravelsafe.org

