



Improving Child Passenger Safety In Our School Buses

IMMI ®

SafeGuard ®



Katia Dubas
IMMI Account Manager
CPS Tech



IMMI® School Bus Products



**INTEGRATED
CHILD SEAT**



**LAP-SHOULDER
BELT SEATS**



STAR



DRIVER BELTS

Children need to
be protected in
EVERY vehicle



On school buses, CPS has **3** stages...



STAGE 1

Rear facing in a
CSRS with a harness



STAGE 2

Forward facing in a
CSRS with a harness

Transporting Children Under 5

Child
Seat

1



Vest /
Harness

2



Integrated
Child Seat

3



SafeGuard  **STAR**

4



CSRS for School Buses § 1303.71

ATTACHMENT OPTIONS

- Bus Seat Belts: Lap Belts or Lap Shoulder Belts
- LATCH
- School Bus Seat Back

Seat Frame Strength

Standard (FMVSS 222)



Reinforced (FMVSS 210)



SBR Seat
Seat Belt Ready

Anchorage Options*

LATCH



Lower Anchors



Tether anchor

Seat Belts



* Required on small buses $\leq 10,000$ pounds only. Some state and municipal laws apply to larger buses.

CSRS for School Buses § 1303.71

1. Conventional Passenger Vehicle Child Safety Seats
2. School Bus Child Restraints
3. Special Needs Child Restraints

Conventional Passenger Vehicle Child Safety Seats

- Require seat belts and/or LATCH for installation.
- Require ample space.



Rear-Facing



Forward-facing



Special
Needs

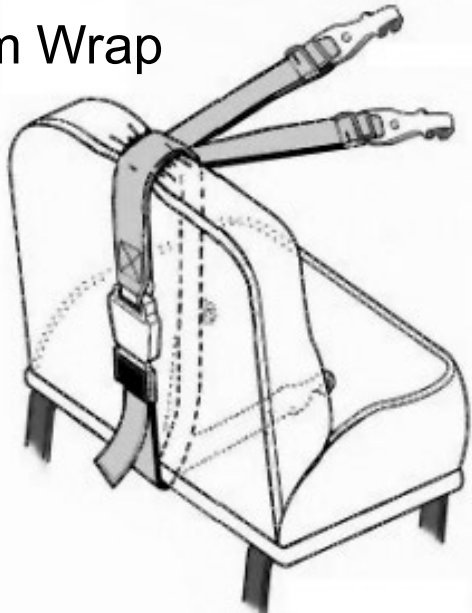


Booster
Seats

CSRS Designed for Buses

- Lightweight, non-bulky
- Take up little space.
- Install using a cam wrap.

Cam Wrap

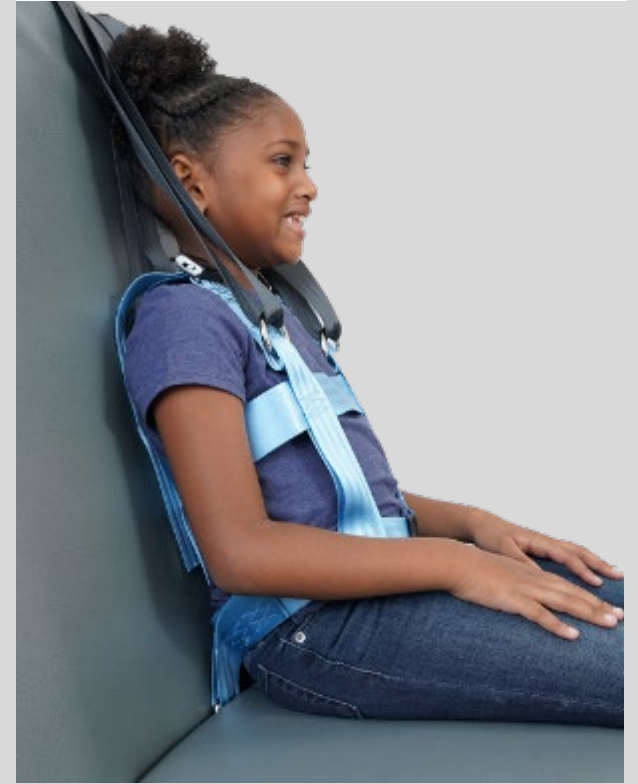


NHTSA image

STAR



Vest/Harness

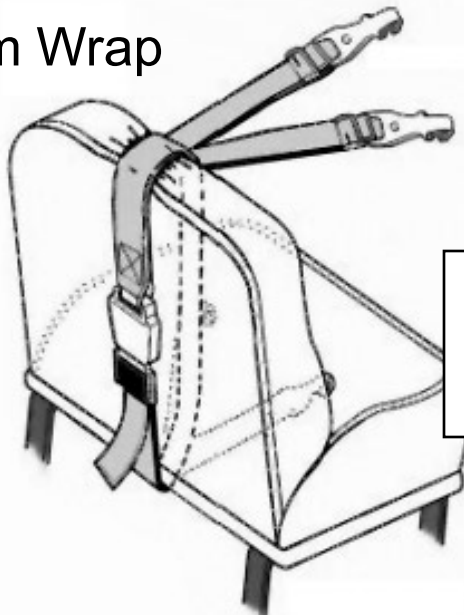


CSRS Designed for Buses

- Lightweight, non-bulky
- Take up little space.
- Install using a cam wrap.

NOTE:
**USE OF CAM WRAP MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF
ROW BEHIND SECURED CHILD!**

Cam Wrap



NHTSA image

- THIS RESTRAINT MUST ONLY BE USED ON SCHOOL BUS SEATS. ENTIRE SEAT DIRECTLY BEHIND MUST BE UNOCCUPIED OR HAVE RESTRAINED OCCUPANTS.

⚠ WARNINGS

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

- THIS RESTRAINT MUST ONLY BE USED ON SCHOOL BUS SEATS. ENTIRE SEAT DIRECTLY BEHIND MUST BE UNOCCUPIED OR HAVE RESTRAINED OCCUPANTS.
- DO NOT USE THIS RESTRAINT UNTIL YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL.
- FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE RESTRAINT AND IN THIS MANUAL.
- DO NOT MODIFY THIS RESTRAINT OR USE ANY ACCESSORIES OR PARTS SUPPLIED BY OTHER MANUFACTURERS. USE ONLY SAFEGUARD REPLACEMENT PARTS.

NEVER USE THE RESTRAINT SYSTEM IF IT IS DAMAGED OR MISSING PARTS. DO NOT USE A CUT, CRACKED,

TRADENAMES SHOULD NEVER EXCEED 100 LBS.

Cam Wrap Vest / Harness

- System of only Webbing and Hardware
- Full Securement
- NHTSA classifies as “Harness” in FMVSS 213
- Lightweight, non-bulky
- Take up little space



Cam Wrap Add-On Child Restraint

- System of Seat Base, Webbing and Hardware
- Securement with 5-point restraint system
- NHTSA classifies as “School Bus Child Restraint System” in FMVSS 213 NPRM (11/2/20)

	Age	Weight	Height
STAR	>1 year	26.5 – 65 lbs	Up to 52”
Super STAR	>1 year	26.5 – 90 lbs	Up to 52”
STAR Special Needs	>1 year	26.5 – 105 lbs	Up to 52”



Integrated Child Seat (ICS)

- Retractable 5-point restraint
- Foldable booster pad
- Fits children 26.5 – 85 lbs
- Stowable child restraint allows for use of 3-point restraint



EDUCATION



TOP 20 USAGE BASICS

CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINT SYSTEMS
ON SCHOOL BUSES



youtube.com/imminet1



Pre-K School Transportation

A Guide for Choosing the Proper
Child Restraint.

safe ride news

SafeGuard 



youtube.com/imminet1

On school buses, CPS has **3** stages...



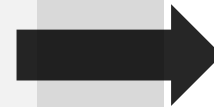
STAGE 1

Rear facing in a
CSRS with a harness



STAGE 2

Forward facing in a
CSRS with a harness



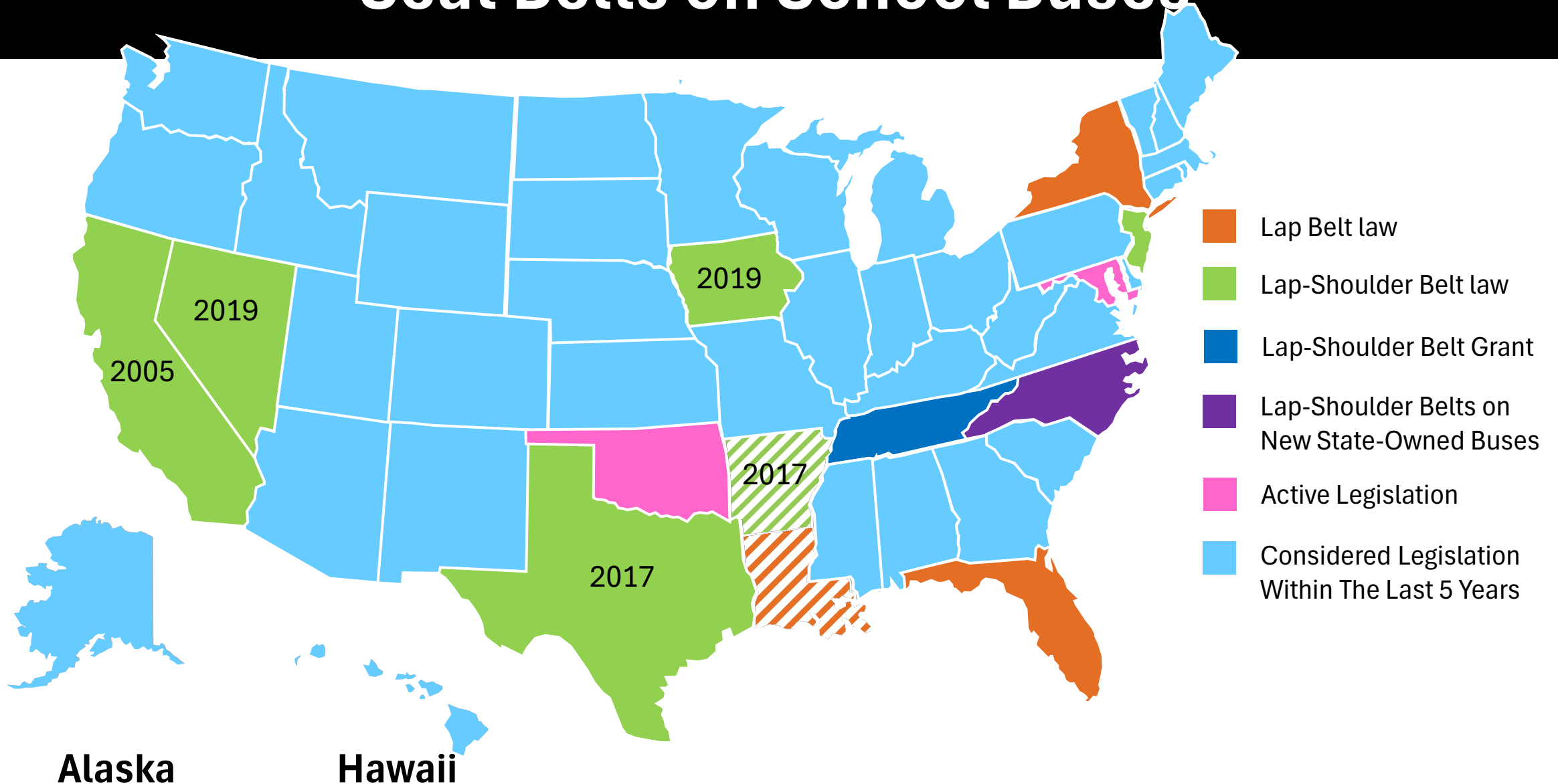
STAGE 3

Riding on a school
bus seat, with a seat
belt whenever
available

WHY don't
school buses have
seat belts?



Seat Belts on School Buses



PA State Status on School Bus Seat Belts



Type A School Bus

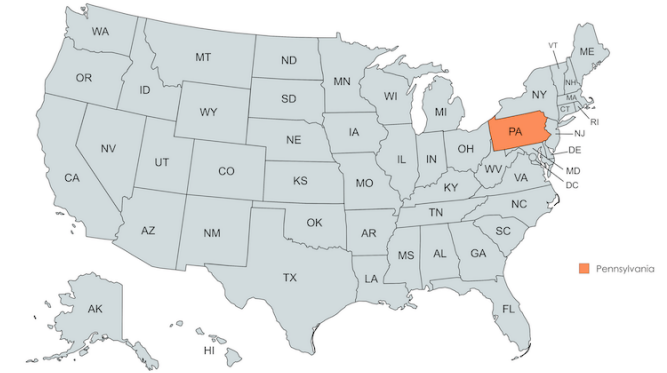
All student seats must have either a lap belt or lap-shoulder belt



Type B,C, and D School Bus

No student seat belts required

67 Pa. Code § 171.68. Seat belts



§ 171.68. Seat belts.

- (a) *Seat belt for the driver.* A Type 2 seat belt meeting the requirements of FMVSS Nos. 208 and 209—See Appendix A—shall be provided for the driver. The belt shall be equipped with a retractor of sufficient quality and strength to keep the belt retracted and off the floor when not in use. The belt shall be anchored in accordance to FMVSS No. 210—See Appendix A.
- (b) *Seat belts for the driver and all other designated seating positions.* Every Type A school bus shall be equipped with an integral Type 2 seat belt assembly at the driver's designated seating position and at the right front passenger's designated seating position, if any. All other designated seating positions shall have a Type 1 or Type 2 seat belt assembly. Seat belt assemblies shall comply with FMVSS Nos. 208, 209 and 210—See Appendix A.
- (c) *Web cutters.* Every school bus equipped with passenger seat belts shall have at least one web cutter securely mounted in a visible location in the driver's compartment.

Authority

The provisions of this § 171.68 amended under the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S. § § 4103, 4551—4553 and 6103.

Source

The provisions of this § 171.68 adopted August 19, 1983, effective August 20, 1983, 13 Pa.B. 2561; readopted December 4, 1987, effective December 5, 1987, 17 Pa.B. 5052; amended September 13, 1996, effective September 14, 1996, 26 Pa.B. 4411; amended May 20, 2005, effective May 21, 2005, 35 Pa.B. 3039. Immediately preceding text appears at serial page (219640).



**65
mph**

**TODAY'S
SCHOOL BUS**



Home → school



Field trips



Athletic events



Between schools

CRASHES DO HAPPEN



Minor



Moderate



Serious

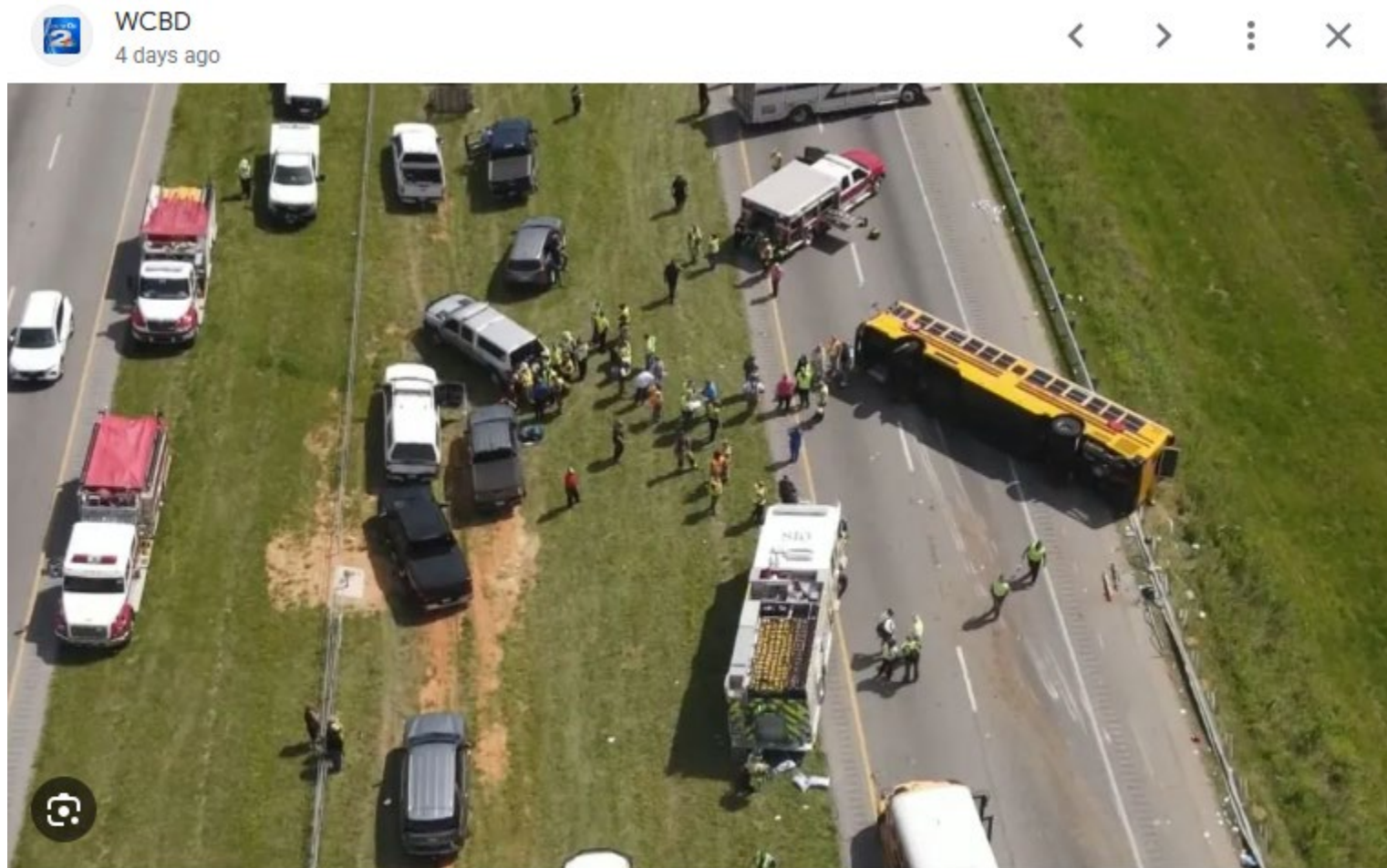
Knoxville, TN | December 2014



6–8 children die each year
as passengers on school buses

(SOURCE: NHTSA)

'Heartbroken': South Carolina leaders react to deadly I-77 school bus crash | WCBD News 2



Heartbroken': South Carolina leaders react to deadly I-77 school bus crash |
WCBD News 2

[Visit >](#)

Debunking Myths

About Lap-Shoulder Seat Belts on School Buses

Compartmentalization
is enough

1

School bus seating over the years



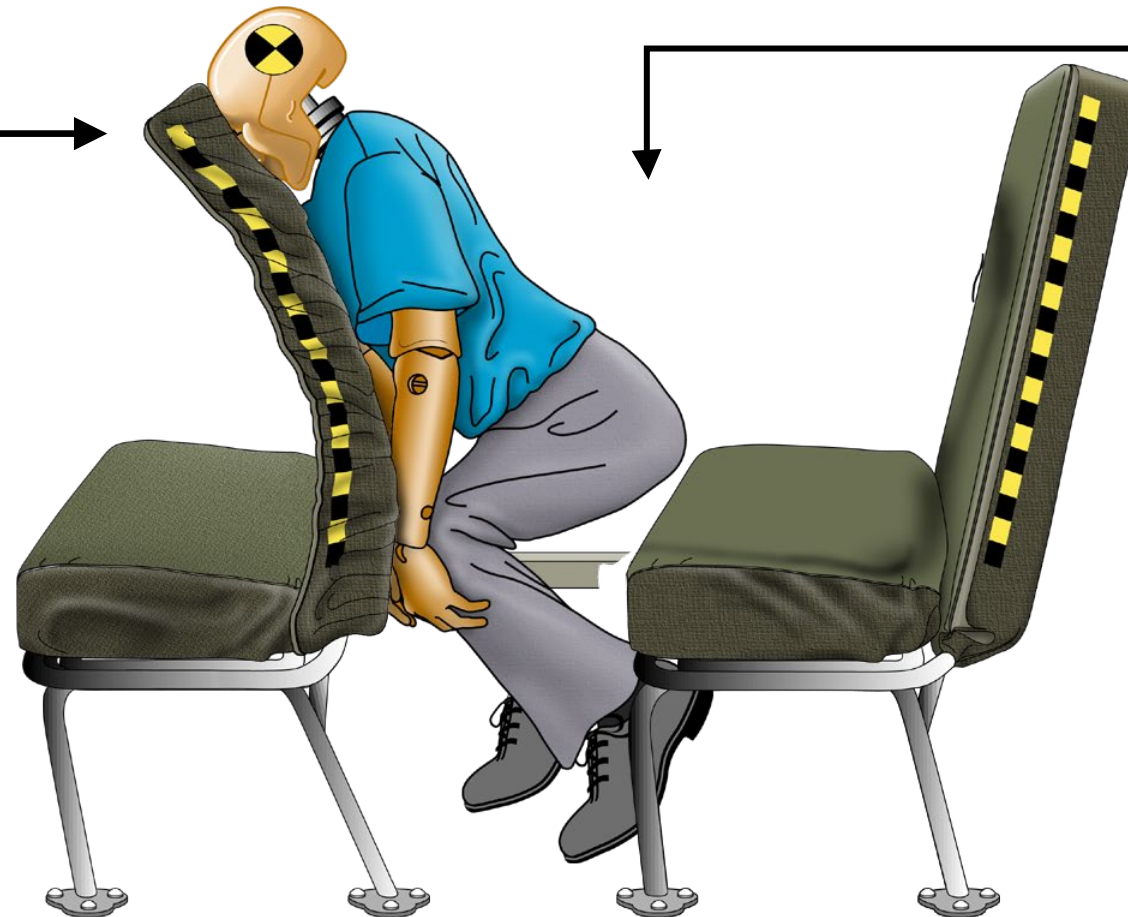
Compartmentalization



Compartmentalization

Passive protection for **UNBELTED** passengers

Seat backs absorb
passenger crash
energy



Passengers
remain in
compartment
between seats

Established 1977



Compartmentalization protection

A photograph of a crash test dummy seated in a vehicle's driver's seat. The dummy is wearing a light blue shirt and grey pants. It is secured by a seatbelt. The vehicle's interior, including the dashboard and steering wheel, is visible. The background shows a laboratory setting with blue structural beams.

17,000
Injuries Each Year

Lacerations
Chipped teeth
Broken noses
Concussions

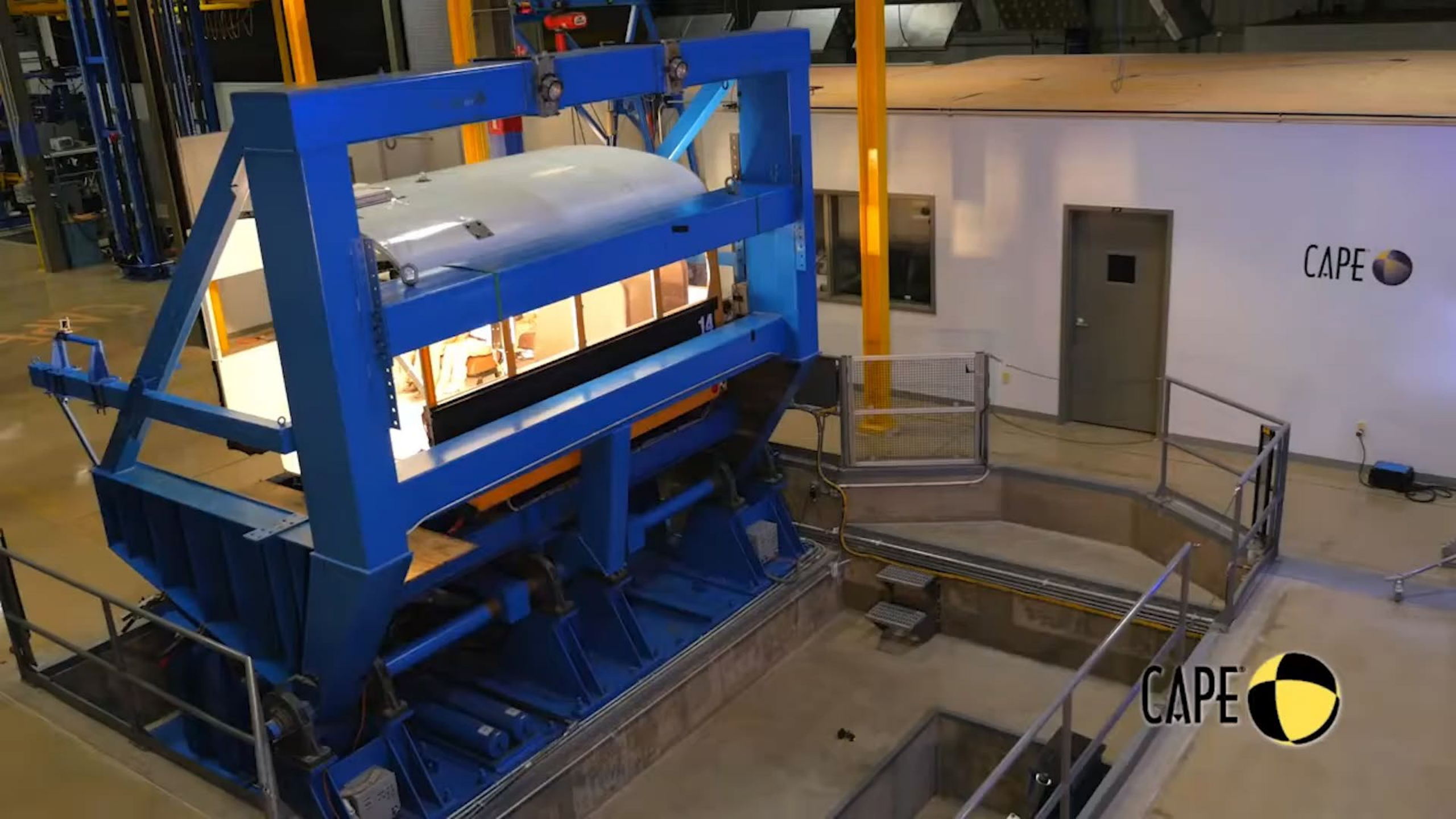
Compartmentalization protection

Compartmentalization alone is **NOT** enough

Works **ONLY** when students are facing forward, in proper seating position.

Offers **NO** protection in roll.





CAPE 

CAPE 

Debunking Myths

About Lap-Shoulder Seat Belts on School Buses

Compartmentalization
is enough

1

Seat belts
reduce capacity

2

Seat belts **DO NOT** reduce capacity



3 Smaller Students

OR



2 Larger Students

Do NOT overload a seat or allow students to sit on the floor



Debunking Myths

About Lap-Shoulder Seat Belts on School Buses

Compartmentalization
is enough

1

Seat belts
reduce capacity

2

Seat belts will be
used as weapons

3

Seat belts are **NOT** used as weapons



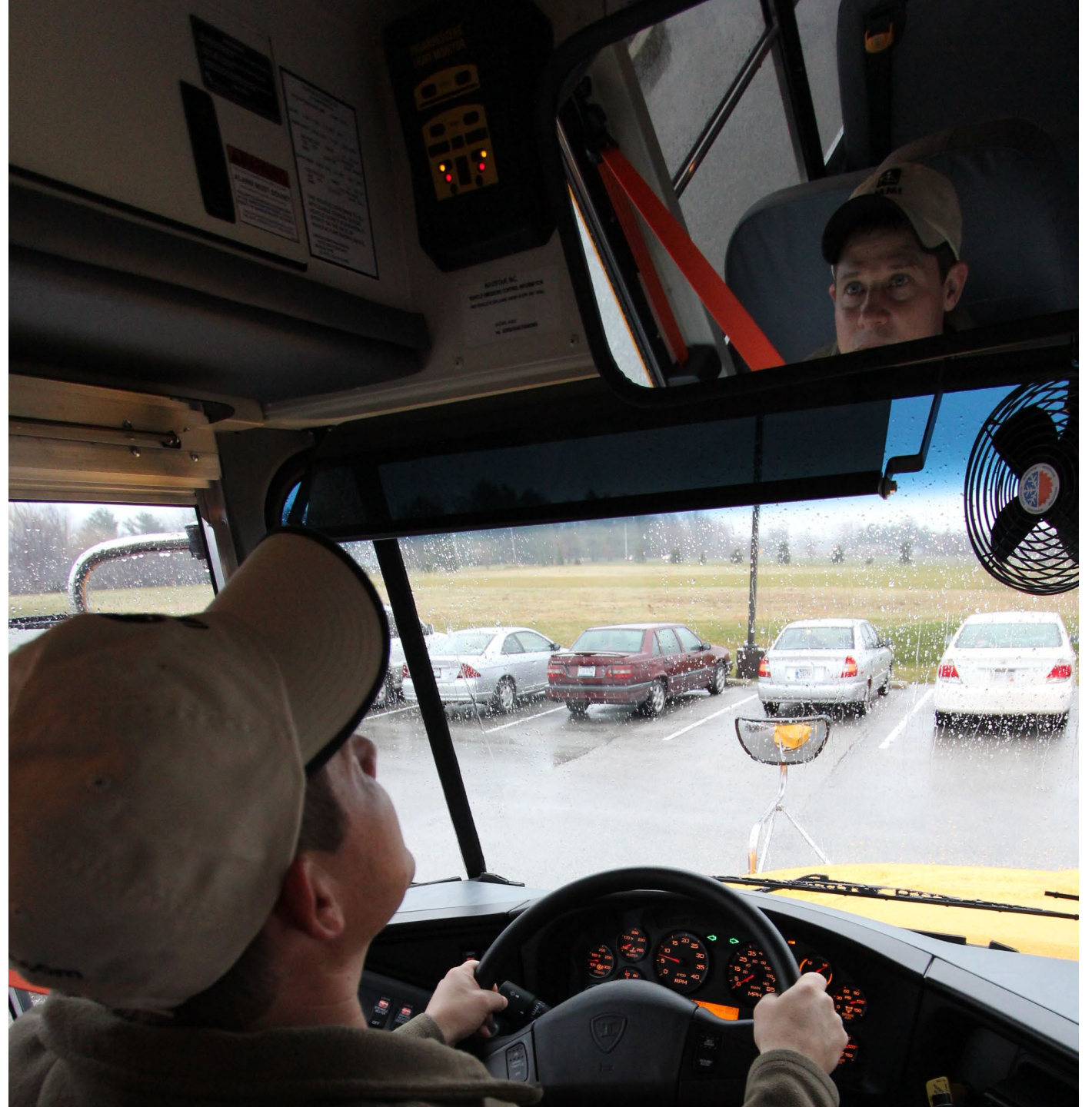
Today's seat belts
retract into the seat

IMMI has never received a complaint about a retractable belt being used to hit another student.

Seat Belts Improve Behavior



Driver distraction





Debunking Myths

About Lap-Shoulder Seat Belts on School Buses

Compartmentalization
is enough

1

Seat belts
reduce capacity

2

Seat belts will be
used as weapons

3

Seat belts are
too expensive

4

Seat belts are **AFFORDABLE**



\$5

PER STUDENT | PER YEAR

Debunking Myths

About Lap-Shoulder Seat Belts on School Buses

Compartmentalization
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reduce capacity

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used as weapons

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Seat belts are
too expensive

4

NHTSA hasn't
approved
seat belts

5

Washington DC | November 2015

“Our goal is a
three-point belt
for **EVERY** child
on **EVERY** bus.”



MARK ROSEKIND
NHTSA Administrator
11-8-2015



Washington DC | May 2018

NTSB:

“Our recommendation...
that **ALL** school buses
be equipped with
lap and shoulder belts.”

ROBERT SUMWALT

Chairman

National Traffic Safety Board

May 22, 2018

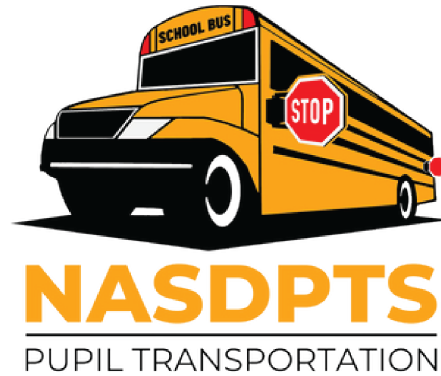


School Bus Safety Act

Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-9) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) reintroduced the School Bus Safety Act

- Last fall's version was filed as HR 10022 to implement safety recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- Installation of seat belts for every seat
- And other safety measures
- Also create a grant program to help school districts modify their school buses to implement the specifications.

National Seat Belt Support



American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



BLUE BIRD®

INDUSTRY FIRST

**LAP-SHOULDER
BELTS
STANDARD**

INDUSTRY FIRST

**DRIVER
AIRBAGS
STANDARD**

Debunking Myths

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too expensive

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NHTSA hasn't
approved
seat belts

5

Seat belts
slow evacuation

6

Seat belts **AID** evacuations

A child with **LESS** injuries can evacuate at the click of a button



Debunking Myths

About Lap-Shoulder Seat Belts on School Buses

Compartmentalization
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used as weapons

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too expensive

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NHTSA hasn't
approved
seat belts

5

Seat belts
slow evacuation

6

Students
won't wear them

7

Students **will** wear seat belts

- Develop an enforceable usage policy
- Policy approved by administration and school board
- Driver expectations for student usage
- Written policy for driver handbooks, student handbooks, and parent sign-off letter

“Don’t buckle, don’t ride”

-Helena, MT School District

Resources



HOW CAN YOU IMPACT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY?

**USE
RESOURCES**

1

**EDUCATE
SCHOOL
DECISION
MAKERS**

2

**ENCOURAGE
PARENTS TO
DEMAND
SEAT BELTS**

3

Download our Resource Sheet for links

School Bus Lap-Shoulder Seat Belt Resources



Link to all resources shown below

<https://brandfolder.com/immi/school-bus-resources-2025>

Pre-K Student Transportation Videos

[Top 20 Usage Basics: Child Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses Video](#)

[Pre-K School Transportation: A Guide for Choosing the Proper Child Restraint Video](#)

School Bus Crash Videos

[Unbelted and Belted Rollover Demonstration Video](#)

[Rollover Crash On-Board Camera Video](#)

Improved Student Behavior

[Video: Improved Student Behavior – Bartholomew County Schools](#)

[Video: Side-by-Side With and Without Seat Belts](#)

Lap-Shoulder Belt Implementation

[Handout: Seat Belt Implementation Guide](#)

[Handout: Lap-Shoulder Belt Basics “Buckle, Click, Tight – Your Seat Belt is Right”](#)

[Video: Lap-Shoulder Belt Basics “Buckle, Click, Tight”](#)

School Bus State Transportation Association List

<https://schoolbusfleet.mydigitalpublication.com/december-2024/page-48>



Implementation Guide

A Step-by-Step Guide for Successfully Implementing SEAT BELTS ON YOUR SCHOOL BUSES

Before You Implement Seat Belts:

Know how you want to equip your buses:

- Will you equip your full fleet or phase seat belts in over time?
- What seating capacity do you need? 2 passenger/seat or Flexible seating?

If you're phasing in buses over time:

- What is your timeline?
- Will these buses be used additionally for activities, or travel on highways with higher rates of speed and greater heavy vehicle traffic, like semi-trucks?
- What's your prioritization plan for bus usage?
- Develop standardized messaging responses on implementation plan process details.

Make an agreement to require and enforce use of seat belts for all passengers.

Implementation:

Organize an Implementation Committee

- Suggested members: school board member, admin member, building principals, transportation director, driver supervisors, union rep., parent/community advocate, public emergency response liaison.
- Committee Objectives
 - Create the plan with supporting documents.
 - Communicate to each area or person with involvement.

Committee Planning:

What to Consider When Purchasing Seat Belts:

- Seating designs, options, and OEM availability
- Will you buy new, upgrade existing, or replace your current seats?
- Scheduling delivery.

What You Need for a Successful, Enforced Usage Policy: ¹

- Get administrative and school board support.
- Ensure the formal written policy is approved by all involved.
- Make rules and a process for disciplining students who refuse to wear their belts.
- Create student and driver handbooks.
- Produce a parent sign-off letter to ensure they understand the rules their child must follow to ride the bus.
- Craft driver requirements so they know their role in enforcing proper student usage.

Educating Staff, Parents, and Students: ²

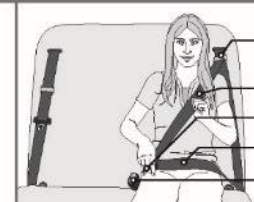
Obtain or use the following tools to ensure staff, parents, and student buy in for seat belts:

Usage Guide

Lap-Shoulder Belt Basics

"Buckle, Check, Tight — Your Seat Belt Is Right!"

Common Seat Belt Parts



Shoulder-height
adjuster
Shoulder belt
Latch plate
Lap belt
Buckle

I have read and discussed these important safety instructions with my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

OK! _____ Date: _____

Instructor: _____ Date: _____

BUCKLE



A BUCKLE the latch plate into the matching buckle after pulling out the shoulder belt webbing from the seatback. LISTEN for the CLICK sound when the latch plate is fastened!

Be sure to:

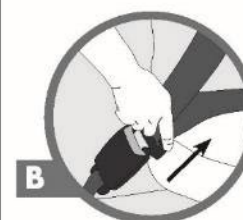
- Sit flat against the seatback.



- Place the lap-shoulder belt over shoulder and around upper body. Do not let the belt get twisted.



CHECK



B CHECK that the buckle connection is secure by tugging firmly on the seat belt latch plate.

Be sure to:

- CHECK while sitting against the seatback.



- Remove any twists in the seat belt when you CHECK.



TIGHT



C TIGHTEN the lap portion by pulling upward on the shoulder belt. Be sure that the shoulder belt is snug across the chest and crosses the center of the shoulder.

Be sure to:

- Properly position lap portion below the waist, not over the stomach.



- Position the shoulder-height adjuster at or just above the shoulder. The belt should not cross the face or neck.





***BUCKLE
CHECK
TIGHT***
***YOUR SEATBELT
IS RIGHT!***



youtube.com/imminet1

State Transportation Association List

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Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

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Ali Stolzman, Dir. of Student Transportation

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Michael LaRocco, Dir., Office of School Transportation

Indiana State School Bus Drivers Assn.

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Ron Chew, Pres.

School Transportation Assn.

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Tom Simpson, State Dir. for Pupil Transportation

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Kentucky Dept. of Education

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Thank you for participating in the School
Transportation Webinar:

Improving Child Passenger Safety In Our School Buses

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**Thank you to our presenter Katia Dubas and
to our moderator Linda Kerstetter!**