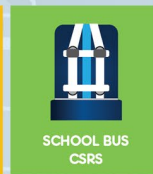


Child Passenger Safety on School Buses



NATIONAL TRAINING



Handout • Introduction

COURSE RESOURCES

- School bus-related resources that support this training are available online. Bookmark the following web page for future reference. The **Child Occupant Protection Glossary** is available on this site.

cpsboard.org/school-bus

TERMINOLOGY

- In the school bus industry, child restraints are referred to as **Child Safety Restraint Systems** or **CSRS**.
- **Children with disabilities:** Use person-first terminology. State the “child” first and then add the disability (i.e., a “child with Down Syndrome” rather than a “Down Syndrome child”).
 - Terminology changes as society changes. The term “special needs” is less-used today, with government and social agencies updating their terminology to include “children with disabilities” and “accommodation for needs” in place of “special needs.”
- **Head Start** and **Early Head Start.** Head Start is a federal preschool program that serves children ages 3 to 5. Early Head Start serves children from 6 weeks through age 2.

LAWS AND GUIDELINES

Who establishes occupant protection laws for children?

Federal Government

- **NHTSA Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses** was issued in 1999, based on NHTSA testing of preschool-size dummies seated on school bus seating.
- The guideline states that preschool-age children in a school bus should be properly secured in a CSRS that:
 - Is appropriate for the child's age, weight, height and developmental level.

- Is properly secured to the school bus seat, using anchorages that meet FMVSS.

one.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/buses/Guide1999/prekfinal.htm

■ Head Start program

eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/head-start-program-performance-standards-showcase/regulations-overview

- Search “Transportation” to find [1303 Subpart F](#), the performance standards for Head Start transportation.

States

■ GHSA (Governor’s Highway Safety Association) state child passenger safety laws

ghsa.org/state-laws

- These laws pertain to general transportation of children in the state, and often school bus transportation is exempt. To learn more in your state about laws related to school buses, contact your state's director of pupil transportation.
- Find a listing of state directors at:

nasdpts.org/State-Director-Map

Local

■ School District Rules and Policies

- Contact your local education authorities (LEAs) to learn about the rules and child transportation policies in your area.

CSRS/School Bus Manufacturers

■ Manufacturers of CSRS (child safety restraint systems) and buses establish their own use guidelines and instructions while also meeting government requirements.

- Links to major school bus CSRS manufacturers and school bus vehicle manufacturers are found in the School Bus Resources on cpsboard.org/school-bus.
- CSRS manufacturer contact information is also supplied on CSRS labels and in instruction manuals.

■ NHTSA’s car seat **Ease-of-Use Ratings** let you compare how easy it is to use certain car seat features in passenger vehicles (which may provide useful information for certain ease-of-use features of conventional CSRS used on school buses, as well).

nhtsa.gov/car-seats-and-booster-seats/car-seat-ease-use-ratings

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RESOURCES

- **National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS).** This organization of state transportation officials provides contact information for each state’s transportation director; position statements; and other resources on its website.
nasdpts.org
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).** NHTSA’s school bus safety page provides information on school bus regulations, seat belts on school buses, and bus stop safety.
nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety
- **American School Bus Council (ASBC).** This educational site, formed through a collaboration of trade organizations (National Association of Pupil Transportation and National School Transportation Association, NASDPTS, and the major school bus manufacturers), provides information to promote the safety and value of school buses.
americanschoolbuscouncil.org
- **National Congress on School Transportation (NCST).** This organization convenes delegates from each state every five years to maintain the student transportation industry’s voluntary set of guidelines. Its website, hosted by NASDPTS, includes a link to the National School Transportation Specification and Procedures document.
nasdpts.org/ncst-nstsp
- **National Safety Council (NSC).** The National Safety Council’s page on school bus safety provides safety tips for at the bus stop, around the bus stop, on the bus and getting on/off the bus.
nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/school-safety/buses-safest-transportation-for-school-children
- **Safe Ride News (SRN).** Safe Ride News, a publisher of printed and online resources for the child passenger safety field, publishes materials that focus on the safety of preschoolers and children with disabilities on school buses.
saferidenews.com
- **School Bus Safety Facts.** Through a cooperative agreement with NHTSA, the American School Bus Council developed downloadable resources to help spread the word about school bus ridership—providing well-researched, up-to-date and accurate statistical information. These resources let communities know about the benefits of school bus ridership; informs communities about how to keep children safe in and around the school bus; and lets others know about the ways they can support the school bus in their community.
schoolbusfacts.com

- **The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT)**. This organization of public and private student transportation service providers is dedicated to operational safety and administrative efficiency of pupil transportation.

 napt.org

- **National School Transportation Association (NSTA)**. This organization is the leading resource for school transportation solutions and is a membership organization for school bus contract-operators engaged primarily in transporting students to and from school and school-related activities.

 yellowbuses.org

- **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)**. This organization represents the legislatures in the states, territories and commonwealths of the U.S. to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among legislatures.

 ncsl.org/transportation/school-bus-safety

PROGRESS CHECK

- What term does the school bus industry use to refer to child restraints on school buses?

- At what ages do children attend Early Head Start? Head Start?

THANK YOU!

The **Child Passenger Safety on School Buses National Training** was developed from the work of national subject matter experts **Denise Donaldson, Susan Shutrump** and **Charlie Vits**. This course would not be possible without their time and expertise.

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Brynn Anthony

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Chris Darling (Iowa Pupil Transportation Association) • Patrick Dean (Dean Transportation) • Susie DeMond Kolb (DeMond Kolb & Associates) • Mario DiFoggio (Daimler Truck—Thomas Built Buses) • Fred Doelker

John Filippi (Deerfield School District 109) • Tammy Franks • Allyson Futon

Meagan Gibson • Wyatt Gibson

Aaron Harris (BESI, Inc.) • Darlene Hawthorne (Thomashilfen) • Hans-Georg Höft (Thomashilfen)

IMMI/SafeGuard

Woody Johnston

Alisha Kelley

Marilyn Lane • Kyndra Lathim (Adaptive Transportation Needs—Injury Prevention Program: Doernbecher Children's Hospital) • Fred Ligouri (Daimler Truck—Thomas Built Buses) • Riley Loughlin

Miriam Manary • Julie A. Mansfield (CCHIPS: Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies—Ohio State University) • Theresa Martinez • Marysville School District • Louelle McKnight • Shayne Merritt (Merritt Manufacturing) • Charlotte Miller • Shannon Miller • Tate Miller • Anthony Mondello • Jessica Mondello • Suzanne Mueller (IMMI) • Brian Mulligan (IMMI) • Michael Munson • Dave Murphy (HSM) • Mark Murray

Steven Osborne • Marcella Ozanich

John-Paul Paonessa (Freedman Seating Company) • Ernest Paton

Angela Quinn

Rob Ramey • Samuel Regan • Shawn Rohe • Kevin R. Russell

Kristina Schukar • Oliver Schukar • Daniel Schwarz • Logan Schwarz • Sue Shutrump • Snohomish School District No. 201 (Transportation Department) • Brittany Swadener (BESI, Inc.)

Jessica Tcheng • Jessica Tipton (IMMI)

Rachel VanMatre (IMMI) • Charlie Vits

Orville Watson (Osceola County School Transportation Safety Supervisor) • Sue Weaver (BESI, Inc.) • Luke Wollak (EZ-On) • Marina Wollak (EZ-On)

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Child Volunteers

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Pilot Course Instructors

* Denotes instructor team lead.

St. Cloud, MN

Sheila Denton
Kala Henkensiefken*
Jes Jensrud
Amy Tiedens
Dex Tuttle

Frisco, TX

Fred Doelker
Denise Donaldson
Kala Henkensiefken
Miriam Manary
Susan Shutrump*
Charlie Vits

Grand Forks, ND

Jennifer Booge*
Sheila Denton

Hillsboro, OR

Devery Barber
Kyndra Lathim*
Michelle Williams

ChampionsGate, FL

Jennifer Booge
Denise Donaldson*
Woody Johnston
Danielle Morris
Jackie Stackhouse

Hybrid Field Reviewers

Denise Bertaut
Julie Brewer
Amy Borg
Valeria Coffey
Denise Donaldson
Scott Downing
Laura Dunn
Susan Ernst
Woody Johnston
Danielle Kessenger
Malissa Lewis
Patricia Liedy
Cassidy Miller
Lewis Moquin
Terri O'Brien
Stacie Olien
Kristin Rosenthal
Thomas Smith
Sue Shutrump
Claudia Summers
Mandi Summers
Adrienne Titus
Velvet Tyndall
Bridgett Watson

School Bus Curriculum Committee

Jennifer Booge
Jessica Butterfield
Fred Doelker
Denise Donaldson
Scott Downing
Rob Duckworth
Laura Dunn
Tammy Franks
Sarah Haverstick
Kala Henkensiefken
Cass Herring
Woody Johnston
Kyndra Lathim
Miriam Manary
Danielle Morris
Rob Ramey
Kristin Rosenthal
Mandi Seethaler
Sue Shutrump
Jackie Stackhouse
Charlie Vits
Ronna Weber
Michelle Williams
Justin Young

Additional Curriculum Contributors

Kathy Anneken
Kami Archibald
Heidi Heflin
Janet Lubaszka
Joe O'Neil
Peggy Stone
Beth Warren
Paula Waters

