

## 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](https://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 say “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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

The **Child Passenger Safety on School Buses National Training** curriculum was put together, in part, thanks to the work of countless volunteers. Without their tireless efforts and dedication, this would not have been possible. The CPST community is generous and giving of their time and talents!

This curriculum was created using crowd-sourced images and video footage. Thank you to all of the talented CPSTs and all of the other individuals and organizations who helped us in the producing, acquiring, or posing for the images and videos within the curriculum, and/or who volunteered in some other capacity.

Brynn Anthony

Lin Badman-Paton • Lin Badman-Paton (St. Cloud Police Department Community Outreach) • Amie Barnes (IMMI) • Brynlee Baugh • Whitney Baugh • Buckle Up with Brutus (Ohio State University)

Leonard Charette (and "Little Jasper" the bear) • Max Christensen (Iowa Department of Education) • Julie Cooley (IMMI) • Arby Creach (Osceola School Transportation Director) • Amy Regenbogen Cutler • Hannah Cutler

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 • Lourelle 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 Tchong • 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)

### Special Thanks...

A VERY special thank you goes out to two CPSTs who went above and beyond, setting up numerous photo shoots across long distance locations—taking more than 700 photos and videos combined over the course of a year! Thank you to **Denise Donaldson** and **Cassidy Miller** for these extra efforts.

### Child Volunteers

Our child volunteers have a special place in our hearts as they represent all of the children we do this work for. A special thank you to all of the kids who helped out!

### 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

Lori Barry  
Denise Bertaut  
Jennifer Booge  
Julie Brewer  
Amy Borg  
Kathleen Clary Cooke  
Valeria Coffey  
Denise Donaldson  
Scott Downing  
Laura Dunn

Susan Ernst  
Heidi Harper-Berard  
Kala Henkensiefken  
Jessi Henkle  
Woody Johnston  
Samuel Jones  
Danielle Kessenger  
Malissa Lewis  
Patricia Liedy  
Miriam Manary  
Cassidy Miller  
Lewis Moquin  
Michelle Nichols  
Terri O'Brien  
Stacie Olien  
Robert Ramey  
Scotti Reed  
Kristin Rosenthal  
Thomas Smith  
Sue Shutrump  
Jacqueline Stackhouse  
Claudia Summers  
Mandi Summers  
Adrienne Titus  
Jean Triest  
Velvet Tyndall  
Bridgett Watson  
Justin Young

### 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

