

Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB)



Georgia Law:

- All children **under age 5** must be in an approved Child Safety Restraint System (CSRS) that is installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

CAUTION: REAR-FACING CAR SEATS – The limited spacing between van seats may not allow adequate space for proper installation due to the angle requirements. Refer to the car seat instructions for more information.

- No booster seats are allowed on MFSAB.
 - Children aged five and older are permitted to ride without CSRS.

MFSB:

- MFSAB meets school bus Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and includes safety features like a steel roll cage, emergency exits, rub rails, and cross-view mirrors.

Best Practices:

- Lap belts do not provide upper body protection. Consider using a car seat with a higher weight limit harness (50+ pounds) OR
- If seat belts are available, transition from a CSRS to a seat belt.

For questions or more information contact the Child Occupant Safety Program

PHONE: **404-463-1487** | EMAIL: **injury@dph.ga.gov**

Georgia Code 40-8-76 Child Restraint Requirements and 40-8-76.1 Seat Belts. <https://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode>, insert code number in search box to see additional exceptions.

Child Care Services – Rules, CCLC 591-1-1-.36 (4) (f)1, FCCLH 290-2-3-.11(2)(j)



Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS)

All Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS) **must be** used according to the CSRS and vehicle instructions.



1. REAR-FACING ONLY CAR SEAT

Place the child in the seat. Harness straps should be **at or below** the shoulders and snug so that you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. The chest clip should be at **armpit level**. Install the seat at an angle, not more than 45 degrees from vertical, follow car seat instructions. Keep a child rear-facing until he/she has reached the **maximum weight or height limit** specified by the car seat manufacturer.

BEST PRACTICE: The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) & most car seat manufacturer's recommend keeping a child rear-facing until he/she is at least 2 years of age.



2. CONVERTABLE, REAR-FACING + FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

While Rear-facing same as # 1. Forward-facing at age 2. Place the child in the seat. The seat should be in **upright** position. Harness straps should be **at or above the shoulders** and snug so that you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. The chest clip should be at **armpit level**.

BEST PRACTICE: The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) & most car seat manufacturer's recommend keeping a child rear-facing until he/she is at least 2 years of age.



3. COMBINATION CAR SEAT, FORWARD-FACING + BOOSTER SEAT

Same as #2 for forward-facing. Place the child in the car seat in the **upright** position. Harness should be **at or above the shoulders** and snug so that you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. The chest clip should be at **armpit level**. Keep child in the car seat until he/she has reached the maximum weight or height limit or the **child's ears are above the top of the car seat**.

CAUTION: Do not use on a school bus or MFSAB without the harness.



5. BOOSTER SEATS – HIGH + BACKLESS

Booster seats **cannot** be used on a MFSAB or School Bus.

Installation Tips and Things to Consider

Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB)

- **Always** follow the Child Safety Restraint System (CSRS) instructions for use and installation.
- Install using the seat belt. Contact vehicle manufacturer if you have questions about how seat belts lock.
- Place the CSRS on vehicle/bus seat in the proper direction at the correct recline angle or upright position.
- Put the seat belt or lower anchor strap through the appropriate belt path for the direction of the seat. Convertible seats will have two paths, one for rear-facing and one for forward-facing.
- Buckle the seat belt. Place your hand in the CSRS seat and press the vehicle/bus seat cushion down and pull any slack out of the seat belt. Lock the seat belt. If the CSRS has a tether strap, a long strap on the back and at the top, follow the instructions for installation (may not have an anchor location on the MFSAB or school bus). Check for tightness after installation and before each use. Place hands on each side of the CSRS (near the belt path). There should be no more than 1 inch of side-to-side or forward movement at the belt path.
- Keep the child in the CSRS as long as possible, until the child outgrows the seat by weight or height.
- **WARNING!** A CSRS should never be installed at an emergency exit on a School Bus or Multi-function School Activity Bus (MFSAB).
- **Never** make changes to a CSRS to make it fit.
- All CSRS have labels on the seat with the manufacturer's contact information. **Always** register CSRS with the manufacturer either on-line or by mailing in the registration card. CSRS have expiration dates indicating when the CSRS should be replaced; expiration dates will vary by manufacturer.
- CSRS should **always** be purchased new and not from yard sales, consignment stores or thrift shops.
- If the CSRS has been involved in a crash, check with the CSRS manufacturer for guidelines on replacing the product.
- Consider using add-on seats or ordering a bus with integrated seats..

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Resources

Multi-Function School Activity Bus

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – <http://www.nhtsa.gov/safety/cps>
Installation videos, ease of use ratings, latest information
- NHTSA Consumer Advisory: 15 Passenger Van
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/consumer-advisory-nhtsa-reissues-15-passenger-van-safety-caution>
- The Ultimate Car Seat Guide, Safe Kids Worldwide – Practical Tips to Keep Kids Safe in Cars,
<https://www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide/>
- NHTSA – Guideline for Safe Transportation of Pre-School Age Children in School Buses
February 1999, <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/buses/guide1999/prekfinal.htm>
- NHTSA – School Bus Driver In-Service Safety Series – This refresher training provides 9 lesson modules on driving a school bus. <https://one.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/buses/updatedweb/index.html>
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – www.healthychildren.org, click on Safety & Prevention for current recommendations, other helpful resources
- Safety Equipment – Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB) / School Bus
 - C E White – www.cewhite.com, integrated seats
 - Besi Inc. – www.besi-inc.com, add-on seats
 - EZ On products – <http://ezonpro.com>
 - IMMI/Safeguard - <https://www.safeguardseat.com/>, adjustable lap/shoulder belts and other school bus information
- Georgia Code 40-8-76 Child Restraint Requirements and 40-86.1 Seat Belts
<https://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode>, type code number in search box to see additional exceptions.
- Recalls – www.recalls.gov
To provide better service in alerting the American people to unsafe, hazardous or defective products, six federal agencies with vastly different jurisdictions have joined together to create this sites as a one stop shop for U. S. Government recalls.
- National Child Passenger Safety Certification – A program of Safe Kids Worldwide <http://cert.safekids.org>
- Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety – www.gohs.state.ga.us

Trusted Internet Sources: NHTSA • Safe Kids Worldwide or USA • GA Department of Public Health-Injury Prevention • American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) • Car Seat, Vehicle and School Bus Manufacturers • Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)

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