

School Bus (Large and Small)



- School buses are exempt from Child Safety Restraint System (CSRS) based on Georgia law. National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHTSA) recommends that preschool age children on a school bus be secured in a CSRS (a car seat or add-on seat).
- **BEST PRACTICE** – Place preschool age children in a CSRS.
- Not every CSRS will fit in school buses (narrow spacing).
- **NO** booster seats are allowed on a School Bus.
- **BEST PRACTICE:** All children age 5 and older should be in seat belts, if provided. Lap belts do not provide upper body protection, consider keeping the child in a CSRS appropriate for their height and weight (some CSRS have higher weight limits, 50+ lbs).
 - ▶ If a school bus did not come from the factory equipped with lap belts and it now has lap belts, make sure that the lap belts are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. If unsure, obtain the VIN number, make, model of the school bus and contact the manufacturer.

Child Care Services – Rules

591-1-1.36(2)(f)1

290-2-3.11(2) (j)

290-2-1-.11(i)20



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This series of Fact Sheets is intended to inform child care professionals about Georgia law and transporting children safely.

All Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS) MUST BE used according to the CSRS and School Bus instructions.

1. Rear-facing Only Car Seat



Place the child in the seat, harness straps **at or just below** shoulders, chest clip at **armpit level**, harness straps **snug** where you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. Install the seat at an angle, not more than 45 degrees from vertical, follow car seat instructions. Keep child rear-facing until the child has reached the **maximum** weight **or** height limit of the car seat – **minimum** age 1 and 20 lbs. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends until **age 2**.

2. Rear-facing and Forward-facing Car Seat (Convertible)



Same as #1 for rear-facing. Forward-facing at age 2. Place the child in the seat, seat should be in **upright** position, harness straps at or just above the shoulders, chest clip at **armpit level**, harness straps **snug** where you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. Keep child in the seat until they reach the **maximum** weight **or** height limit or until the **child's ears are above the top** of the seat.

3. Forward-facing Car Seat (can convert to booster seat mode)



Same as #2 for forward-facing. Place the child in the car seat at an **upright** position, with the harness straps **at or just above** the shoulders, chest clip at **armpit level**, harness straps **snug** where you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. Keep child in the car seat until they have outgrown by the **maximum** weight **or** height limit of the car seat or if the **child's ears are above the top** of the car seat. **DO NOT** use on a School Bus or MFSAB without the harness (booster seat mode).

4. Booster Seats



Booster seats **CANNOT** be used on a School Bus or a Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB).

All Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS) MUST BE used according to the CSRS and School Bus instructions.

5. Built-In Child Restraint (integrated seats)

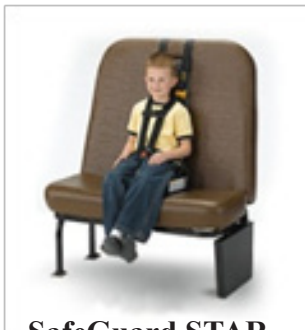


Place the child in the integrated seat with the harness straps **at or just above** the shoulders, chest clip at **armpit level**, harness straps **snug** where you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. Keep child in the seat until they have outgrown by the **maximum** weight **or** height limit of the seat or if the **child's shoulders are above the top harness slot** of the bus seat.

6. Add-On Seats



BESI Pro-Tech



SafeGuard STAR

Place the child in the add-on seat with the harness straps **at or just above** the shoulders, chest clip at **armpit level**, harness straps **snug** where you cannot pinch the webbing together at the shoulders. Keep child in the add-on seat until they have outgrown by the **maximum** weight **or** height limit of the seat or if the **child's shoulders are above the top harness slot** of the seat.

IMPORTANT: When an add-on seat is used (SafeGuard STAR or BESI Pro-Tech), the entire seat behind it must be empty or have another restrained child.* The other restrained child could use a car seat, add-on or a seat belt.

*(NHTSA Interim Final Rule, October 2002, Docket #12065.)

7. Lap Belt Only



Lap belts **do not** provide upper body protection. As a result serious, head, spine and/or neck injuries can occur.

BEST PRACTICE: Consider keeping the child in a CSRS appropriate for their weight and height.

Installation Tips and Things to Consider

- **ALWAYS** follow the Child Safety Restraint System (CSRS) instructions for use and installation.
- Install using the seat belt or lower anchors – **DO NOT** use both. Read your vehicle owners manual for information about how to lock your seat belts or location and use of LATCH connections (LATCH – **L**ower **A**nchors and **T**ethers for **C**hildren).
- Place the CSRS on vehicle/bus seat in the proper direction at the correct recline angle or upright position.
- Put the seat belt or LATCH strap through the belt path of the seat as directed by the manufacturer. Convertible seats will have two paths, one for rear facing and one for forward facing.
- Buckle the seat belt or attach LATCH clip to anchors. Place your hand in the CSRS seat and press the vehicle/bus seat cushion down and pull any slack out of the seat belt or LATCH straps. Lock the seat belt. If the CSRS has a tether, 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 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 the child fits within the weight **or** height limits.
- **WARNING!** A CSRS should **never** be installed at an emergency exit on a School Bus or MFSAB or the front seat of a car, SUV or 12/15 passenger van.
- **NEVER** make changes to a CSRS to make it fit.
- All CSRSs have labels on the seat with their contact information. 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 be purchased new and not from yard sales or thrift shops.
- If the CSRS has been **involved in a crash**, check with the CSRS manufacturer for guidelines to replace the product.

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Resources

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS> installation videos, ease of use rating, latest information
- NHTSA Consumer Advisory: 15-Passenger Van
<http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Shoppers/Passenger+Van+Safety>
- NHTSA – Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-School Age Children in School Buses - February, 1999 <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/buses/guide1999/prekfinal.htm>
- NHTSA – Child Safety Restraint Systems on School buses
Training videos - <http://www.nhtsa.gov/SchoolBuses>, look under Additional Resources
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – www.healthychildren.org, click on Safety & Prevention current recommendations, other helpful information
- Safety Equipment – Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB) / School Bus
 - C E White – www.cewhite.com, integrated seats
 - Safe Guard Seat – www.safeguardseat.com, integrated & add-on seats
 - Besi Inc. – www.besi-inc.com, add-on seats
- Georgia Code 40-8-76 Child Restraint Requirements and 40-8-76.1 Seat Belts
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode/>, type code number in search box
- 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 www.recalls.gov -- a “one stop shop” for U.S. Government recalls.
- Child Passenger Safety Technician – Become one, Find one - <http://cert.safekids.org/>
- Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety -www.gohs.state.ga.us
- Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute -www.ridesafegeorgia.org

TRUSTED INTERNET SOURCES: NHTSA ∞ Safe Kids USA ∞ Georgia Department of Public Health-Injury Prevention ∞ AAP Car Seat, Vehicle and School Bus Manufacturers ∞ Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) ∞

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