

Child Passenger Safety On School Vehicles



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The School Bus

- Safest vehicle on the road
- Most deaths occur at the bus stop
- Most injuries occur inside the bus
- Compartmentalization for frontal crash protection



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2

Some Kids Are Being Transported That Need Safety Restraints



Children not protected by compartmentalization

- Infants and toddlers: School districts, Early Head Start, Child care
- Preschoolers: Head Start, preschools
- All ages: Special Needs

3

CSRS Defined

- Child Safety Restraint System (CSRS)
 - Standard car seats
 - Special needs car seats
 - Bus specific restraint systems
 - Built-in
 - Add-on
 - Vests

NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses Training

- Based on NHTSA's National CPS certification training
- Supports the *NHTSA Guidelines for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses*
- *Must be taught by currently certified CPS Technician or Instructor*
- *Not a substitute for the CPST training program*

Who Should Attend?

- CPS Technicians/Instructors
- School bus drivers and monitors
- Driver trainers
- School district officials
- Transportation directors
- Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists
- Early intervention specialists
- School bus companies, distributors and contractors

Course Instructors

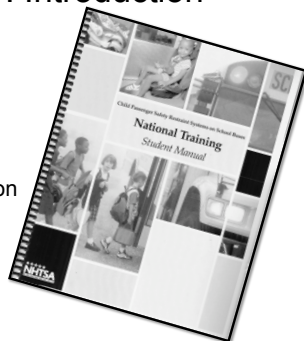
- Requires a range of experience and knowledge about CSRS above general level
- Designed to be taught by certified CPS Technicians or Instructors *with experience in pupil transportation*
- Instructional team should also include at least one person familiar with unique requirements and constraints of school buses

Course Design


- Similar in design and style to CPS Technician Certification Training Program
 - Provides no official certification
 - May provide certificate of completion
- Recommended class size of 30
 - Student ratio: 1 Instructor/ 5 Students
- Seven hours in length
 - May be offered in one session or multiple sessions
- 8 Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction


- Explains the course objective and role of school personnel when transporting pre-school children on school buses




Chapter 2 – The School Bus



Large (over 10,000 GVW)




Small (under 10,000 GVW)



Source: O' Connor Bus Sales

Multi
Function
School
Activity
Bus
(MFSAB)

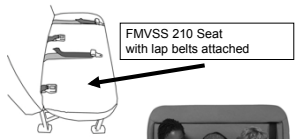


Source: O' Connor Bus Sales


10

Chapter 3: Seat Belt Systems on School Buses

- Type?
- Number?
- Are lap belts correctly installed?




FMVSS 210 Seat with lap belts attached



11

Chapter 4: Introduction to Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS)

- Padding/cover
- Shell/frame (behind cover)
- Labels
- Harness slots
- Harness straps
- Retainer clip
- Buckle



Chapter 5: Rear-Facing Child Safety Restraint systems

- Space Issues Affecting CSRS Use
 - Space between seats
 - Aisle Width
 - Seat Depth
- Inadequate Space for rear facing CSRS



Chapter 6: Forward –Facing Child Safety Restraint Systems

Special Considerations

- Seat belt compatibility
- Space issues
- Tether issues
- Installation issues



"Knee in the Seat" is appropriate on a school bus


Chapter 7: Safety Vests, Add-on School Bus Specific Seats, and Integrated School Bus Seats

- Built-in Harnesses Integrated Bus Seating
- Fold out CSRS with no installation needed
- Age/Weight limits



Chapter 8: Evacuation

- **Never** transport any child until you know how he/she can be evacuated!
- Establish policies/ procedures
- Practice



Training in use of belt cutter: slice diagonally through taut webbing.

16

Additional Information

- It is helpful to become familiar with and to provide the following resources to participants
 - Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Aged Children in School Buses
www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/buses/Guide1999/prekfinal.htm
 - Choosing the Correct School Bus, www.nhtsa.gov
 - Federal Motor Vehicle safety Standards Appendix
 - Head Start regulations and resources
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management> (go to transportation)

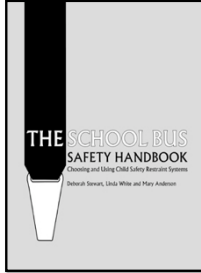
NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses National Training Opportunities

- Transporting Students with Disabilities & Preschoolers www.eduprogroup.com/index.html
- School Transportation News Expo
<http://stnonline.com/expo>
- National Association for Pupil Transportation
<http://www.naptonline.org/summit.html>
- KIM Conference* <http://www.kidzinmotion.org>
*Train-the-Trainer Version

18

Resources from Safe Ride News

- School Bus Safety Handbook
- The School Bus Challenge CD
- LATCH Manual:
 - *Chapter 7, LATCH on buses,
 - *New in 2011, Appendix D
- Betty Mason, SRN School Bus Specialist
- CSRS on School Buses listserv:
Join from SRN website www.saferideneews.com



19

Assistance for Children with Special Needs

National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs

1-800-755-0912

www.preventinjury.org



STAR Special Needs CSRS from IMMU SafeGuard

20

Wheelchair Transport Information

- Resource for Crash-Tested Wheelchairs:
www.recrwts.org/WC19.html

- “Ride Safe” Wheelchair Informational Brochure
www.travelsafer.org



Crash-tested stroller WC

21

Wrap Up

- School bus CSRS installations are different
- Hands-on training is important for both the CPST and Bus Driver
- Build a relationship between CPST and Bus Driver
- Use your CPS knowledge ... learn from the Bus Driver



22

Thank you!

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