

Michigan Department of Education  
Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee  
Advisory Practice and Guideline

**Pre-school Child Restraint Systems**

In order to strengthen safety for pupils that are transported on school buses, it is recommended that each local and intermediate school district (in coordination with contracted pupil transportation providers, if applicable) develop policies and procedures for transporting pre-school children. Though school buses are exempt from seat belt regulations, due in part to, the passive child restraint system known as compartmentalization, it is recommended that a review of all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's child safety restraint training modules be completed prior to transporting pre-school children taking into consideration the following items:

1. Each child's age, weight, and height.
2. The appropriateness of a Child Safety Restraint System (CSRS).
3. Assurance that the CSRS anchorages and school bus seats are installed on meet all applicable FMVSSs.
4. Conduct regular inspections, maintenance, and cleaning of all CSRS, anchorages, and school bus seats.
5. Regularly check CSRS and anchorages for product recalls and expiration dates.
6. Cut and properly dispose of all outdated equipment.
7. Ensure all school bus drivers are trained in the proper installation and use of CSRS.
8. Designating school-bus seats at the front of the school bus for child restraints to provide drivers quick access and a clear view of the occupant(s).
9. Equip all school buses with two (2) safety belt cutters that are accessible only to the driver and any monitors.
10. Establish and practice a plan for evacuating all CSRS equipped school buses.

Student safety is a top priority of Michigan Department of Education. The Michigan Department of Education, upon the recommendation of the Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee, recommends the implementation of this practice for all pupil transportation providers.