

“Guidelines #1, #2, #3” – SSBA December 2006

“Guideline” #1: Transportation on a class (PS) school bus: Children age 3 years and older, students / preschool / approved additional passengers, may ride on the bus. The board may decide to designate certain students as “special needs” and /or special circumstances, in which case appropriate equipment is used and those installations, must meet the bus and restraint device manufacturers specifications. If seat belts are installed in a seating position, any child seated in that position must use the seat belt. The seat position directly behind a seat-belted or restraint equipped / or series of equipped seat positions, must be kept vacant. Our recommendation is so stated because the bus passenger seat back is designed to collapse under force; therefore, no passengers or luggage should be kept in this position.

“Guideline” #2: “Special needs students and special circumstances” For transportation on a bus: The board may decide to designate certain students as “special needs” and /or special circumstances, who are to be placed in a restraint for their own safety, in which case appropriate equipment is used and those installations, must meet the bus and restraint device manufacturers specifications. The seat position directly behind a seat-belted or restraint equipped / or series of equipped seat positions, this position must be kept vacant. For transportation in automobile or van or taxi (seat belt use in taxi is optional), where seat belts are original equipment, all children are required to use the seat belts, or child seats as per height and weight of child.

“Guideline” #3: Transportation of babies under 3 years of age on a school bus: The board may decide to approve this transportation, in which case, infant seat / child seat / equipment and tethers shall be used and those installations, must meet the bus and restraint device manufacturers specifications. The seat position directly behind a seat-belted or restraint equipped / or series of equipped seat positions, this position must be kept vacant.

Height and weight ranges for child seats:

Current automobile regulations for infant safety seats, child safety seats, handicapped student seating and when applying (“Guidelines #1, #2, #3” – SSTA April 2003) for student passengers on school bus (class PS) and other vehicles for transportation of students.

Many boards are introducing pre-school programs that may involve the transportation of pre-school children by school bus, automobile, van or taxi. The safety of pre-school children places an important additional requirement on vehicles and operators.

A. Babies under 9kg (20 lbs) or under 26 inches tall:

- Shall have a rear-facing infant seat;
- The seat shall be appropriate for the infant's height and weight;
- The seat shall be secured in the vehicle in the manner recommended by the manufacturer of the child restraint system, and suitable to the type of bus vehicle and bus seat;
- The seat shall meet the regulation of Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, CMVSS - #213.1

B. Children less than 18 kg (20-40 lbs) or 26-39 inches tall:

- Shall have a forward facing child restraint seat;
- The seat shall be appropriate for the child's height and weight;
- The seat shall be secured in the vehicle in the manner recommended by the manufacturer of the child restraint system, and suitable to the type of bus vehicle and bus seat.
- A seat belt and locking clip shall secure car seat base.
- A tether strap (attached to a tether bolt in the vehicle) shall secure the top of the car seat.
- The seat shall meet the regulation of Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, CMVSS - #213.

C. Special Needs or Handicapped seating restraints:

- Shall meet regulation, Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, CMVSS - #213.3;
- The use of safety vests has not yet been approved by Transport Canada.

D. Children more than 40 lbs – to – 60 lbs, and more than 39 inches tall:

- Shall be accommodated on booster seating, with seat belts.
- The booster seat shall be secured by a lap and shoulder belt (if it is a high-backed booster).
- Or by a lap belt (if it is an armrest or shield booster).

E. Children more than 60 lbs:

- Shall be fastened into the regular auto seat belt system.