

## School Transportation Vehicles (Use of Safety Belts)

The use of safety belts in school transportation vehicles is mandatory for all personnel using vehicles that are equipped with safety belts.

Operators of all school transportation vehicles shall be responsible for ensuring that all passengers use safety belts. The operator shall not begin to move the vehicle until the operator and all passengers are belted or secured in a child restraint system as required by state law.

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 42-4-236 (*children must be placed in a child restraint system that is appropriate for the child's size and age*)

*Note: State law requires children under the age of 8 to be properly restrained in a child restraint system. This applies to small vehicles transporting students. The following are the motor vehicle child restraint requirements:*

- *Infants must ride in the back seat in a rear facing car seat until they are at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.*
- *A child 1 year old but less than four 4 years old and weighing more than 20 pounds but less than 40 pounds but must ride in a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system.*
- *Children 4 to 8 years must continue to ride in a child restraint system. This is typically a booster seat.*
- *Children who are at least 8 years of age but less than 16 years of age shall be properly restrained in a safety belt or child restraint system according to the manufacturer's instructions.*