

## Information for Parents and School staff regarding use of Car Seats

New York State Law has specific requirements for the use of Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS) or Car Seats by students using school buses, which may be different than DMV policy regarding their use in private vehicles. In short, all students under the age of four are required to travel using a car seat on a bus. Over age four, car seats are recommended for children weighing less than 50 pounds. Students age four and above over 50 pounds may travel without a car seat, using the seatbelts present on the vehicle.

### Students Using Pre-K/EI Transportation

- Unless using a wheelchair, students age three and under are required to travel using a car seat that is provided by the bus vendor.
- Car Seats are recommended for students 4 years old who weigh less than 50 pounds in Pre-K programs. Parents should discuss these issues with Pre-K site staff. Staff at Pre-K sites should communicate and work with the OPT Pre-K/EI team at OPT to identify students with this requirement.

### Students Mandated to Receive Specialized Transportation

- Students of any age or special need requiring car seats should have the ambulatory code of V.
  - a. Vendors are required to provide car seats if the ambulatory code is displayed and vendor is aware of this requirement when school begins
  - b. For students who have their ambulatory code updated after routes are selected by vendors: The school may provide a car seat and request reimbursement through Related Services

### Students Assigned Stop-to-School Transportation

- Use a **Medical Evaluation Request** for a student using a yellow bus stop who requires a car seat.

### Field Trips

- Pre-K/EI trips arranged through Pre-K vendors will be provided using vehicles equipped with car seats
- Field trips for schools with students over 4 years may need car seats for their trips: schools should enter request in notes section and also confirm with vendor prior to the trip, and contact OPT Customer Service/Field Trip team if there are any issues or vendor refuses

Read more here: <http://www.optnyc.org/schools/FieldTrips.htm>

### Booster Seats

Booster seats are not to be used on schools buses

Read more here: <https://one.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/buses/buseatbelt/index.html>

