

for: parents • caregivers • child passenger safety advocates • educators

Use this site to learn about North Carolina's seat belt and child passenger safety laws. You will also find recommendations for keeping everybody in the car as safe as possible.

Many community programs offer information, teach parents and other caregivers how to use their restraints correctly, and offer the "hands on" service of checking to make sure child restraints are installed and used correctly. Use the buckleupnc.org site to find child passenger safety and seat belt information and technical assistance in your community.

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the buckleupnc.org website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, LAWS, CHOOSING & USING, TRAINING WORKSHOPS, and CONTACTS & RESOURCES. The main heading is "North Carolina Child Passenger Safety Resource Center" and "Child Safety Seat and Seat Belt Information". Below this, there is a welcome message and a link to "Find local programs and checking stations". The page is divided into several columns of links and information:

- WHAT'S NEW**
 - [Invitation to Apply for the NC CPS Training Committee](#)
 - [Apply for a position on the NC CPS Training Committee](#)
 - [NC CPS Instructor Candidate Process](#)
 - [Revised NC CPS Instructor Candidate and Technician Course Assistant Process and Evaluation](#)
 - [NC CPS Conference 2008](#)
 - [Videos](#)
 - [Earn CEU credits by viewing video sessions from the 2008 NC CPS Conference](#)
 - [NC Children in the Back of Pickup Trucks Law upgraded](#)
 - [Amended to raise the age of children covered and to remove the "tural county" exemption](#)
 - [NC CPS Tech Liability Law](#)
 - [A new NC law will provide liability protection to NC Technicians beginning October 1, 2008](#)
- NC OCCUPANT RESTRAINT LAWS**
 - [Child passenger safety law](#)
 - [Seat belt law](#)
 - [Pickup truck law](#)
 - [Technician liability protection law](#)
 - [Graduated driver's licensing](#)
 - [Bicycle helmet law](#)
 - [ATV Law](#)
 - [NC Legislation of interest](#)
- TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**
 - [NC CPS Basic Awareness class](#)
 - [National CPS Certification training](#)
 - [NC Update Refresher training](#)
 - [Technician Recertification](#)
 - [NC CPS Training Committee](#)
 - [Training request](#)
 - [Training schedule](#)
 - [Training registration information](#)
 - [NC CPS training policies](#)
 - [NC CPS Conference](#)
 - [NC CPS Conference 2008 Videos](#)
- CHOOSING AND USING OCCUPANT RESTRAINTS**
 - [Basics of safety seats and seat belts](#)
 - [Choosing and using safety seats](#)
 - [Basics of using seat belts](#)
 - [LATCH: lower anchors and tethers for children](#)
 - [Recalls](#)
 - [Transporting children w/ special health care needs](#)
 - [Children and airbags](#)
 - [Child restraints and other vehicles](#)
- CONTACTS & RESOURCES**
 - [NC CPS training committee](#)
 - [NC contacts and resources](#)
 - [County contacts and resources](#)
 - [Local CPS clinics and events](#)
 - [CPS contacts for other states](#)
 - [National CPS contacts](#)
 - [Child Restraint and Vehicle Manufacturer's Downloads](#)
- JOBI EMAIL LIST**
- SITE SUPPORTERS**
 - [Site hosted and managed by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center](#)
 - [Site sponsored by the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program and NC Department of Insurance](#)

At the bottom of the page, it says "North Carolina Child Passenger Safety Resource Center".

North Carolina Laws:

NC has three occupant restraint laws. Their basic requirements are as follows:

- All drivers and passengers, regardless of age, must be properly buckled up in vehicles required to have seat belts.
- Children younger than age 8 and who weigh less than 80 pounds must be properly secured in a child restraint or booster seat.
- Children less than age 5 and less than 40 pounds must be in the rear seat if the vehicle has an active passenger-side front air bag and a rear seat.
- When a child reaches age 8 (regardless of weight) or 80 pounds (regardless of age), a correctly fitted seat belt may be used instead of a child restraint or booster seat. Placing the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back is both illegal and unsafe.
- Booster seats must not be used with just a lap belt, so lap-only seat belts can be used for children over 40 pounds if no lap and shoulder seat belt is available.
- Children less than age 16 are prohibited from riding in the open bed of a pickup truck or other open cargo area.
- Drivers are legally responsible for themselves and all children less than age 16 in the vehicle.
- The penalty for not complying with the Child Restraint/Booster Seat law is 2 driver license points, a \$25 fine and at least \$120 court costs.



for more information:
www.buckleupnc.org
toll-free 800-672-4527



1 Rear-Facing



2 Forward-Facing



3 Booster Seat



4 Seat Belt

Recommendations for a child's best protection:

1. Use rear-facing child restraints as long as possible, but at least until age two for maximum protection. Children are five times safer riding rear-facing than forward-facing into the second year of life. Most current convertible models can—and should—be used rear-facing up to at least 30 pounds.
2. Once a child is turned to face the front of the car, use a child restraint with a harness until the harness is outgrown, from 40–80 pounds, depending on the model.
3. Once a child outgrows the harness, use a belt-positioning booster seat until the child is large enough for the seat belt to fit correctly.
4. Use seat belts for older children only when they are large enough for both the lap and shoulder belts to fit correctly.

For all seats, always check height and weight limits. Whenever possible, keep children younger than age 13 buckled up in a rear seat of the vehicle.