

Booster Seats, Car Seats and Seat Belts for School Age Kids

Q: What kind of car seat should this school age child be in?

A: It depends on the height/weight of the child; some children can still be rear-facing, and some might be big enough to use a seat belt. Here is a great website to help determine that <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#35091> .You can enter the child's age and height and weight and it will tell you the best car seat to use for that child. On the backside of this is a 5 step test that a parent can use to see if their child is big enough to use an adult seatbelt.

Q: What is the State Law for Missouri and Kansas regarding car seats and booster seats?

A: Here is a good chart to tell what both state laws are:

| | Kansas | Missouri |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Infants and Toddlers | Children ages 3 and under or who weigh less than 40 pounds must be secured in an appropriate child restraint | Children ages 3 and under must be transported in an appropriate child restraint. |
| Booster Age | Children ages 4,5,6,7 must be restrained in a belt positioning booster seat unless 1) the child weighs more than 80 pounds 2) the child is taller than 4'9" and/or 3) only a lap seat belt is available. | Children ages 4,5,6,7 must be restrained in a belt positioning booster seat unless 1) the child weighs more than 80 pounds 2) the child is taller than 4'9" and/or 3) only a lap seat belt is available. |
| Safety Belt | Children ages 15 and under must be restrained with a seat belt in all seating positions | Children ages 17 and under must be restrained with a seat belt in all seating positions |
| Exemptions | All vehicle seat belts in use, school buses, for "hire" vehicles | All vehicle seat belts in use, school buses, for "hire" vehicles |
| Penalty | \$60 plus court cost - fine is waived if violator shows proof of acquisition of appropriate restraint to court or citing agency | \$50 plus court cost - fine is waived if violator shows proof of acquisition of appropriate restraint to court or citing agency |

Q: What are some good web sites to refer families to?

A: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#35091>

<https://www.safekids.org/car-seat>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx> <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/child-passenger-safety/index.html>