



Helena
Public Schools

Three Point Seat Belts On School Buses

Tom Cohn
Transportation Manager

Benefits



- Protection against catastrophic accident – side impact and rollover
- Student safety
 - Students are seated in a safer position, fully utilizing compartmentalization
 - Very effective for younger children – keep children seated

Perceived Drawbacks



- Possible weapon – **REALITY: NOT TRUE**
- Time to put on – **REALITY: Has not been a problem in Helena**
- Students refuse to wear them – **REALITY: It's the Law**



Process Started in 2011: What are the benefits of seat belts?

- How effective is compartmentalization?
 - Only effective if students are sitting in a correct manner
 - Difficult for driver to maintain
- What do 3-pt belts protect against?
 - Rollovers, side impact, student management

Implementation



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Cost concerns

- About 7 cents a day on a new contract
- The real question: What is a child's life worth?

Implementation



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Process

- Benefits of seat belts reinforced by all (NHTSA, public awareness, parents, medical profession, etc.)
- Community and school board support

Implementation



Specified 3-pt seat belts in rebid process

- 80 buses
- 100% 3-pt seat belts
- 5 Year contract with a 2 year extension
- About 7 cents a day on a new contract



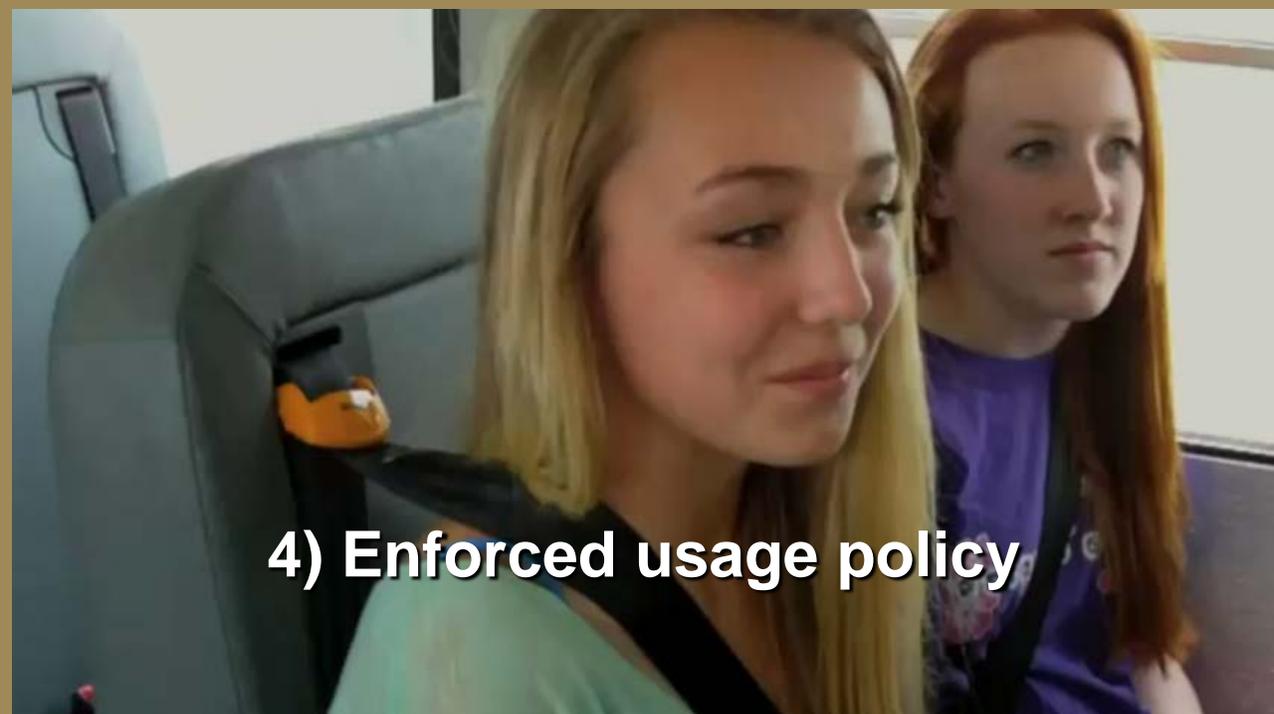
1) Students are assigned seats.



2) Drivers are required to use a Check-On & Check-Off sheet.



3) All buses are tracked with GPS and Cellular Video Connections



4) Enforced usage policy



Transportation

****IMPORTANT**** For those of you who don't already know, all Helena Public School Buses beginning this school year were equipped with seat belts. Wearing the seat belt is not just a bus rule that must be followed, it is also the law. Parents must understand that children that intentionally/blatantly disregard wearing their seat belt constitutes automatic suspension from the bus. Please direct any questions to Steven Dietrich at 406-324-2102 or Tom Cohn at 406-324-2102.



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Regular Transportation:

Helena Public Schools contracts all of its transportation services to First Student. Student began a new seven year contract with First Student across both our elementary and high schools. First Student is responsible for the bus routing and handling of all bus space at the local First Student facility.

To find out if a bus is **running late** today, please click [here](#).

To access the most recently posted **bus schedules and attendance boundary** information, [click here](#).

Links at the right of this page allow you to review our routing procedures, student discipline and eligibility policies, current weather warnings, and a department directory.

First Student

3020 Big Sky Loop

- [department directory](#)
- [inclement weather](#)
- [residence boundary/bus lookup](#)
- [routing](#)

Summary



- Seat belts are a no brainer
- Results were better than expected
- Age old problem is cost
- What's more expensive: Seat belts or a child's life?