

# *Child Seat Restraint Guidelines*

Private vehicle owners are required by the Florida Child Seat Restraint Law to properly buckle children. The child's age and size dictates the location and proper restraint method.

## **Legal "MUSTS" according to FS Title XXIII Chapter 316.613 and 316.614**

- If the child is 5 years of age or younger, provide for protection of the child by properly using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device.
- For children aged through 3 years, such restraint device must be a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child seat.
- For children aged 4 through 5 years, a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or a child booster seat may be used.

However, the requirement to use a child restraint device under this subparagraph does not apply when a safety belt is used as required in s. 316.614(4)(a) and the child:

- a. Is being transported gratuitously by an operator who is not a member of the child's immediate family;
- b. Is being transported in a medical emergency situation involving the child; or
- c. Has a medical condition that necessitates an exception as evidenced by appropriate documentation from a health care professional.
- Everyone else must use a seat belt.

### ***Make it safer...***

- \* Infant car seats should be in a rear-facing position in the back seat.
- \* Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, choose a seat that fits in your vehicle, and use it every time.
- \* Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions (check height and weight limits) and read the vehicle owners' manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or lower anchors and a tether, if available.

For more detailed information on car seats for children by age and size please click [here](#) for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's car seat recommendations.

# Field Trip Vehicle Insurance Information

All field trip drivers must complete the Field Trip Vehicle Information Form (PCS 3-2719). The information provided in that document should be **verified by a school representative** and maintained in the school file. In order to complete that form, field trip drivers need to present their vehicle insurance card.



The *minimum* insurance coverage required for private passenger automobiles used for school-related transportation is:

- Property Damage Insurance (PD) \$10,000
- Personal Injury Protection (PIP) \$10,000

## Loaned or Borrowed Vehicle Guidelines

Commercial, private and business partnerships sometimes offer to *loan* vehicles (with or without their own driver) to schools for use in student transportation. In these instances, insurance and driver license requirements are much the same as for any other field trip.

A school staff member must verify and photocopy the driver's license and insurance information.

### Special Insurance Requirements



The *minimum* insurance coverage required for vehicles with a seating capacity of 16 or more persons (including the driver):

- Bodily Injury Insurance (BI) \$100,000/\$300,000
- Property Damage Insurance (PD) \$50,000
- Personal Injury Protection (PIP) \$10,000
- Comprehensive To cover the value of the vehicle

## Special Driver License Requirements



**If a vehicle has seating capacity of 16 persons or more (including the driver):**

- Commercial Driver License (CDL) Class "C" is required with a "P" passenger endorsement
- If the vehicle is equipped with air brakes, the air brake restriction code "1" must not appear on the CDL license



**When transporting students in very large vehicles, (i.e., seating capacity approximately 30 persons or more) a class "B" CDL license or higher insurance requirements may be necessary.**

Please contact Risk Management & Insurance at (727) 588-6078 for guidance.

## Rental Vehicle Guidelines

When automobiles or mini-vans are needed to provide student transportation for District sponsored field trips, events or activities, the vehicles should be rented from the company holding the current State Contract for auto rentals. Contact the Accounting Department for the name of the current State Contract auto rental company and for further details on renting vehicles.

### IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION

When renting an approved vehicle from the current State Contract for school sponsored field trips, events or activities, primary third party liability insurance coverage (nominal) is provided in the rental cost.

In addition, purchase of the daily Collision Damage Waiver, (CDW) or Loss Damage Waiver (LDW) fee is not required. The auto rental company assumes all loss damage to the vehicle due to fire, accident or collision.

#### NOTE

Supplemental Liability Coverage of \$1,000,000 minimum is required to be purchased and included in all rental contracts. In addition, when renting vehicles from a company other than the current State Contract, the daily Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) or Loss Damage Waiver (LDW) protection must be added to the rental contract.

#### Rental Insurance Terminology:

- *Collision Damage Waiver (CDW)* - Pays the full replacement cost of loss or damage to the rented vehicle if there is theft, crash, vandalism, etc.
- *Supplemental Liability Coverage (SLI)* - Pays for bodily injury or property damage caused to the other parties involved in an auto accident if you are found to be at fault.
- *Note on Personal Injury Protection (PIP)* - As per Florida Law, the driver and occupants of a rental vehicle are covered by their own family's automobile policy if injured in a motor vehicle crash.