Tackling challenges in school and Head Start transportation: When compartmentalization isn't enough

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Objectives
This session will describe:
- Who can't be protected by compartmentalization alone, and why.
- Best practice versus actual requirements.
- Head Start regulation as a model, but still faces many challenges.
- The CSRS options and the importance of training on proper use.
- Basic differences between using vans and school buses for student transportation.
- Resources for further learning.

Compartmentalization:
- Made for low-speed frontal crashes
- Seatbacks yield forward, absorb energy (for ride down)
- Only good for passengers who:
  - Weigh enough
  - Are not too fragile
- Also, passenger must:
  - Be upright, face forward, and be entirely in the compartment
The student population has changed since compartmentalization was developed!

Consider Head Start a Model

Title 45, Part 1303 Subpart F, 1303.70 and as defined in Part 1305.2

- CFR 45, 1303 Subpart F (formerly CFR 45 Part 1310)
- Transport in school bus or "allowable alternative vehicle"
- Child must use an appropriate CSRS
- At least one monitor is required on the school bus.
Federal Head Start Programs

- Head Start (all ages 3 to 5)
- Early Head Start (under age 3; 55% <2, 25% <1)
- Migrant and Seasonal HS (50%<3)
- American Indian/Alaska Native HS (25%<3)

Children Served by Head Start

Approximately 1.3 Million Children/Year

Head Start = approx. 900,000
Migrant/Seasonal = approx. 30K
Early Head Start = approx. 250,000
American Indian/Alaska Native HS = approx. 23K

Head Start Model NOT Followed by Many Pre-School Programs

Autopsy: Boy found unresponsive on local school bus; strangled
**Conventional CSRS Are Used on Buses**

- Require seat belts and/or LATCH for installation.
- Require ample space.

**CSRS Designed for Buses**

- Lightweight, non-bulky
- Take up little space.

- Install using a cam wrap.
Training Needed for Proper Use

- Rear facing versus forward facing
- Angle of installation
- Tightness
- Presence of a crotch strap
- Snugness of harness
Head Start Challenges

- Low funding
- Maintenance
- Technology updates
- Driver shortages
- Difficult to schedule and provide CSRS training.
- Head Start overlooked.
- My Peers is good resource.

Full-Size Vans

- Used by many schools and other programs.
- State laws vary.
- NHTSA: regulates sale/lease of new vehicles only.
- MUST FOLLOW COP LAWS

Resources

- NHTSA.gov (search School Bus)
- Saferidenews.com (School Bus Safety/ Industry Best-Practice Guidance):
  - Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses (NHTSA)
  - Best Practice Guidance for Transporting Children on School Buses (Safe Kids)
  - School Bus Safety Handbook ordering information.
- https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov
  - To join My Peers collaboration site, search My Peers.
## Training Resources

- NHTSA 8-Hour CPS Restraint Systems on School Buses National Training
- NHTSA.gov (search School Bus)
- Conferences
  - School Transportation News Expos
  - Transporting Children with Disabilities and Preschoolers (TSD)
  - State pupil transportation associations