



Occupant Protection Laws

State	Must be In Child Restraint*	Additional Seat Belt Coverage*	Who is Covered & Where	Seat Belt Law Primary or Secondary
Alabama	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; under 5 yrs. and <40 lbs. forward-facing seat; under 6 yrs. in booster seat**	6 until 15 yrs.	15+ yrs. in front seat	P
Alaska	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; under 5 yrs. and >20 lbs. forward-facing seat; 4-8 yrs., <57" and 20-64 lbs. in booster seat or child safety seat**	4 until 16 yrs, >57" and >65 lbs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
Arizona	Under 5 yrs. must be in appropriate child seat; 5-8 yrs & <57" in booster seat**	5-7 yrs. & >57", and 8 until 16 yrs.	8+ yrs. in front seat; 8 until 16 yrs. in all seats	S
Arkansas	Under 6 yrs. & under 60 lbs.**	6 yrs. or at least 60 lbs. until 15 yrs.	15+ yrs. in front seat	P
California	Under 8 or less than 57"; Under age 2 & < 40 lbs. & < 40" must be rear-facing ^{1**}	8 until 16 or at least 57"	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
Colorado	Under 1 yr. & <20 lbs. in rear-facing seat; 1 until 4 & 20-40 lbs. in forward-facing seat; 4-7 yrs. in booster seat ^{2**}	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in front seat	S
Connecticut	Under 2 yr. or <30 lbs. in rear-facing seat; 2 until 4 & 30-40 lbs. in forward-facing seat; under 7 yrs. or less than 60 lbs. in child safety seat ³	7 until 16 yrs. and 60+ lbs.	7+ yrs. in front seat	P
Delaware	Under 8 yrs. & under 66 lbs. ^{4**}	8 until 16 yrs. or 66+ lbs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
D.C.	Under 8 yrs.**	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P

1 In California, children less than 57" must be in the rear seat, if available. Children weighing more than 40 lbs. may be belted without a booster seat if they are seated in the rear seat of a vehicle not equipped with lap/shoulder belts. A child may not ride in the front seat of a motor vehicle with an active passenger airbag if the child is riding in a rear-facing child restraint system.

2 In Colorado, vehicles without lap/shoulder belts are exempt.

3 In Connecticut, vehicles without lap/shoulder belts are exempt.

4 In Delaware, no child who is 65" or less in height or is under 12 years of age shall occupy the front passenger seat of any vehicle equipped with a passenger-side airbag that has not been deliberately rendered inoperable.



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Florida	Under 6 years ^{5**}	N/A	6 until 18 yrs. in all seats; 6+ yrs. in front seat	P
Georgia	Under 8 yrs & <57"; must be in the rear seat if available**	8 until 18 yrs. and >57"	8 until 18 yrs. in all seats; 18+ yrs. in front seat	P
Hawaii	Under 4 yrs. in child safety seat; 4 until 8 yrs. <57" and <40 lbs. in booster seat or child safety seat** ⁶	4 through 7 years who are taller than 4'9"	8+ yrs. in all seats	P
Idaho	Under 7 yrs. ^{**}	N/A	7+ yrs. in all seats	S
Illinois	Under 8 yrs. ^{7**}	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats; under 19 yrs. in all seats if driver is under 18	P
Indiana	Under 8 yrs. ^{8**}	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
Iowa	Under 1 yr. & < 20 lbs. in a rear-facing child safety seat; 1 until 6 yrs. must be in a child restraint system**	6 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in front seat	P
Kansas	Under 4 yrs. in child safety seat; under 8 yrs and <80 lbs. or <57" in booster seat or child safety seat	8 until 13 yrs. and >80 lbs. or >57"	14 - 17 yrs. in all seats 18+ in front seat	P (S for rear occupants >18)
Kentucky	Under 40" in child safety seat; under 8 yrs. & 40-57" in booster seat**	Under 8 yrs. & >57"	Under 8 & >57" in all seats; 8+ in all seats	P

⁵ In Florida, a seat belt may be used for children ages 4 to 6 when the child is either being transported by someone who is not a member of the child's immediate family, in an emergency, or has a documented medical condition that necessitates an exception.

⁶ In Hawaii, children under 8, but at least 4'9" are not required to use a child restraint. Vehicles without lap & shoulder belts are exempt as long as the child is seated in the rear seat.

⁷ In Illinois, a child weighing more than 40 lbs. may be transported in the back seat of a motor vehicle while wearing only a lap belt if the back seat of the motor vehicle is not equipped with a combination lap and shoulder belt.

⁸ In Indiana, a child weighing more than 40 pounds may be transported using a lap belt if the vehicle is not equipped with lap and shoulder belts or if all lap and shoulder belts other than those in the front seat are being used to restrain other children younger than 16.



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Louisiana	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in a rear-facing child safety seat; 1 until 4 yrs. or 20-39 lbs. in a forward-facing child safety seat; 4 & 5 yrs. or 40-60 lbs. in a booster seat. Under 6 and under 60 lbs. must be in the rear seat if available**	6 until 13 yrs. or >60 lbs.	13+ yrs. in all seats	P
Maine	Under 40 lbs. in a child safety seat; 40-80 lbs. & under 8 in a booster seat ⁹ **	8 until 18 yrs. or <18 yrs. & >57"	18+ yrs. in all seats	P
Maryland	Under 8 yrs. or 57"	8 yrs. & >57" until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in front seat ¹⁰	P (S for rear occupants)
Massachusetts	Under 8 yrs. & 57" lbs. or under**	8 until 13 yrs. & >57"	13+ yrs. in all seats	S
Michigan	Under 8 yrs. & <57"; under 3 yrs. must be in rear seat if available**	8 until 16 & >57"	16+ in front seat	P
Minnesota	Under 8 yrs. & <57"***	8+ yrs. & >57"	8+ yrs. in all seats	P
Mississippi	Under 4 yrs. in child safety seat; 4-6 yrs. & <57" or <65 lbs. in booster seat**	6+ yrs. & >57" or >65 lbs.	7+ yrs. in all seats	P
Missouri	Under 4 yrs. in child safety seat; 4-7 yrs., 40-80 lbs. or under 50" in child seat or booster seat; 4+ yrs. and < 80 lbs. in booster seat	8 until 16 & 80+ lbs. or > 57"	16+ yrs. in front seat	S (P for children <16)
Montana	Under 6 yrs. & <60 lbs.**	6+ yrs. & >60 lbs.	6+ yrs. in all seats	S
Nebraska	Under 6 yrs.	6 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in front seat	S ¹¹
Nevada	Under 6 yrs. & under 60 lbs.**	6+ yrs. & >60 lbs.	6+ yrs. in all seats	S
New Hampshire	Under 7 yrs. & <57" ¹² **	7 until 18 yrs. or <18 yrs. & >57"	No Law	No Law

8 In Maine, children under 12 and <100 lbs. must be in rear seat, if available.

10 In Maryland, rear seat passengers are required to wear a seat belt (a secondary offense).

11 Nebraska's seat belt law is secondary, but enforces the child restraint law on a primary/standard basis.

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New Jersey	Under age 2 & <30 lbs. rear-facing seat; under age 4 & <40 lbs. in appropriate harness seat; under 8 yrs. & <57" in a booster seat, in rear seat of vehicle**	8 until 18 yrs. & >57"	Under 8 & >57"; 8+ yrs. in all seats	P (S for rear occupants)
New Mexico	Under 1 yr. must be in rear-facing seat in rear seat if available; 1-4 yrs. or <40 lbs. in child safety seat; 5 and 6 yrs. & <60 lbs. in booster ¹³ **	7 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in all seats	P
New York	Under 2 yrs. in rear-facing seat; under 4 & <40 lbs. in child safety seat; 4 until 8 yrs. or under 4 & >40 lbs. in booster seat ¹⁴ (effective 11/1/19)	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in front seat	P
North Carolina	Under 8 yrs. & under 80 lbs. ¹⁵ **	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P (S for rear occupants)
North Dakota	Under 8 yrs. & <57" ¹⁶ **	8 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in front seat	S
Ohio	Under 4 yrs. or under 40 lbs. in child safety seat; under 57" and 4-8 yrs. In a booster seat **	8 until 15 yrs. & >57"	8 until 15yrs. in all seats; 15+ in front seat	S
Oklahoma	Under 2 yrs. must be in rear-facing seat; under 4 yrs. must be in harness seat; under 8 yrs. and <4'9" in restraint or booster seat ¹⁷	8 yrs. & >4'9"	9+ yrs. in front seat	P

12 In New Hampshire, child restraints required for children under 7 yrs. and under 57".

13 In New Mexico, children ages 7 through 12 must be properly restrained in a child restraint until a vehicle safety seat fits properly.

14 In New York, children under 7 but at least 4'9" and/or more than 100 lbs. are not required to be in a child restraint. Vehicles without lap/shoulder belts are exempt.

15 In North Carolina, children must be restrained in a child safety seat in the rear seat if the vehicle has a passenger airbag, unless the child restraint system is designed for use with airbags. Additionally, if all seating positions with a lap and shoulder belt are taken, children less than 8 and between 40 and 80 lbs. may be seated in a properly positioned lap belt.

16 In North Dakota, vehicles without lap/shoulder belts are exempt.

17 In Oklahoma, a child weighing more than 40 lbs. may be transported in the back seat of a motor vehicle while wearing only a lap belt if the back seat of the motor vehicle is not equipped with a combination lap and shoulder belt.



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Oregon	Under 2 yrs. in rear-facing seat; <40 lbs.; over 40 lbs., under 8 yrs. or <57" in booster seat	8-15 yrs. or >57"	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
Pennsylvania	Under age 2 years in a rear-facing seat until child outgrows the manufacturer's height, weight recommendations; under 4 yrs. in child safety seat; 4-8 yrs. in booster seat**	8 until 18 yrs.	8 until 18 yrs. in all seats; 18+ yrs. in front seat	S (P for children <18 yrs.)
Rhode Island	Under 2 yrs. and <30 lbs. in rear-facing seat; under 8 yrs., under 57" and under 80 lbs., must sit in rear seat**	8 until 18 yrs, >57", & 80+ lbs.	18+ yrs. in all seats	P
South Carolina	Under 2 yrs. in a rear-facing infant seat; 2+ yrs. in forward-facing seat; 4-8 yrs. or until 57" in a booster seat**	8 yrs. or >57" ¹⁸	8+ yrs. all seats	P
South Dakota	Under 5 yrs. & under 40 lbs.**	5 yrs. & 40+ lbs. until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in front seat	S
Tennessee	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in a rear-facing infant seat; 1 until 4 yrs. & 20+ lbs. in a forward-facing infant seat; 4 until 9 yrs. & < 57" in a booster seat ¹⁹	9 until 16 yrs. or under 13 yrs. & 57" or more	16+ yrs. in front seat	P
Texas	Under 8 yrs. & <57" **	8 until 17 yrs. & >57"	17+ yrs. in all seats	P
Utah	Under 8 yrs. & <57" **	8 until 16 yrs. & all children >57"	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
Vermont	Under 1 yr. & <20 lbs. in a rear-facing infant seat; 1 until 8 yrs. & >20 lbs. in child safety seat or booster seat ²⁰ **	8 until 18 yrs. & >20 lbs.	18+ yrs. in all seats	S

18 In South Carolina, children who are under age 8 must be in the rear seat, if available.

19 In Tennessee, children under 9 yrs. and less than 4' 9" must be in a rear seat if available.

20 In Vermont, children under 2 or less than 20 pounds must be in the rear seat unless the front passenger airbag is deactivated.



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Virginia	Under 1 yr. in a rear facing infant seat, must sit in rear; 1 until 8 yrs. in child safety seat or booster seat ²¹ **	8 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in front seat	S
Washington	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in a rear-facing safety seat; 1-4 yrs. or 20-40 lbs. in forward-facing child seat; under 8 yrs. in booster seat ²² **	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
West Virginia	Under 8 yrs. & <57" ²³ **	8 until 18 yrs. & >57"	8 until 18 yrs. in all seats; 18+ yrs. in front seat	P
Wisconsin	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in a rear-facing safety seat; 1-3 yrs. & 20-40 lbs. in child safety seat; 4-8 yrs., 40-80 lbs. & <57" in booster seat ²⁴ **	Under 9 yrs., >80 lbs. & >57"	8+ yrs. in all seats	P
Wyoming	Under 9 yrs., must be in rear seat if available ²⁵ **	N/A	9+ yrs. in all seats	S

*All child restraint laws are primary; however, Ohio's is secondary, and Nebraska's law is secondary for those who may be in safety belts and standard for those in a child restraint device.

** All of these laws indicate that a child must be properly secured/restrained, which means that the seat must be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

21 In Virginia, children 4-7 years-old may use an adult belt only with a doctor's exemption for a medical reason.

22 In Washington, children at least 4'9" are not required to use a child restraint. Children under 13 must be in the rear seat.

23 In West Virginia, children at least 4'9" are not required to use a child restraint.

24 In Wisconsin, children under 4 yrs. must be in rear seat, if available.

25 In Wyoming, children may sit in the front seat if all rear seats are occupied. Children under 9 who properly fit in a seat belt do not need to use a child restraint.