



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. (effective 8/2/12, 5-8 yrs & <57" in booster seat)**	5 until 16 yrs. (effective 8/2/12, 5-7 yrs. & >57", and 8 until 16 yrs.)	5+ yrs. in front seat; 5 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". ^{1**}	6 until 8 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 all seats	S
Connecticut	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in rear-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 65 lbs. ^{4**}	8 until 16 yrs. or 65+ lbs. ²	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
D.C.	Under 8 yrs.**	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
Florida	Under 4 yrs.**	4-5 yrs.	6 until 18 yrs. in all seats (P); 6+ yrs. in front seat	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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Georgia	Under 8 yrs and <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.; 4 until 8 yrs. <57" and <40 lbs. in booster seat or child safety seat.** ⁵	8 until 17 yrs.	8 through 17 yrs. in all seats; 18+ yrs. in front seat	P
Idaho	Under 7 yrs.**	7+ yrs.	7+ yrs. in all seats	S
Illinois	Under 8 yrs. ^{6**}	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. in a child seat or a booster seat ^{7**}	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
Iowa	Under 1 yr. and < 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 18 yrs. and >80 lbs. or >57"	14 - 17 yrs. in all seats 18+ in front seat	P
Kentucky	Under 40" in child safety seat; under 7 yrs. & 40-50" in booster seat**	Under 7 yrs. & >50"	Under 7 & >50" in all seats; 7+ in all seats	P
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

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ In Indiana, 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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Maine	Under 40 lbs. in a child safety seat; 40-80 lbs. & under 8 in a booster seat ⁸ **	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	P
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.; 4-6 yrs. & <57" or <65 lbs. in booster seat.**	6+ yrs. & >57" or >65 lbs.	7+ yrs. In front seat	P
Missouri	Under 4 yrs. in child safety seat; 4-7 yrs., 40-60 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"	(P for children <16); 16+ yrs. in front seat	S
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
Nevada	Under 6 yrs. & under 60 lbs.**	6+ yrs. & >60 lbs.	6+ yrs. or >60 lbs.	S
New Hampshire	Under 6 yrs. & <55" **	6 until 18 yrs. or <18 yrs. & >55"	No Law	No Law
New Jersey	Under 8 yrs. & under 80 lbs. in child seat or booster seat, in rear seat of vehicle**	8 until 18 yrs.& >80 lbs.	Under 8 & >80 lbs.; 8+ yrs. in all seats (S for 18+ yrs. in rear seat)	P
New Mexico	Under 1 yr. must be in rear-facing seat in rear seat if available; 1-4 yrs. or <40 lbs.; 5 and 6 yrs. & <60 lbs. ⁹ **	7 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in all seats	P

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

⁹ In New Mexico, children ages 7 through 12 must be properly restrained in a child restraint until a vehicle safety seat fits properly.

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New York	Under 4 & <40 lbs.; 4 until 8 yrs., or under 4 & >40 lbs., in booster seat. ¹⁰	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in front seat	P
North Carolina	Under 8 yrs. & under 80 lbs. ¹¹ **	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in front seat	P
North Dakota	Under 7 yrs. & <57" or <80 lbs. ^{12**}	7 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in front seat	S
Ohio	Under 4 yrs. or under 40 lbs.; 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 6 yrs. ¹³	6 until 13 yrs.	13+ yrs. in front seat	P
Oregon	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in rear-facing seat in rear 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 4 yrs. in child safety seat; 4-8 yrs. in booster seat**	8 until 18 yrs.	(P for children <18 yrs.) 8 until 18 yrs. in all seats; 18+ yrs. in front seat	S
Rhode Island	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 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in a rear-facing infant seat; 1 until 6 yrs. & 20-40 lbs. in a forward-facing child safety seat; 1 until 6 yrs. & 40-80 lbs. in a booster seat**	1 until 6 yrs. & 80+ lbs. or any child under 6 yrs. if the child can be seated properly; 6+ yrs. ¹⁴	(P for children <18) 6+ 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

10 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.

11 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.

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

13 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.

14 In South Carolina, children who are under six must be in the rear seat, if available.



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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 ¹⁵	9 until 16 yrs. or under 13 yrs. & 57" or more	16+ yrs. in front seat	P
Texas	Under 8 yrs. and <57" **	8 until 17 yrs. and >57"	17+ yrs. in all seats	P
Utah	Under 8 yrs.** & <57"	8 until 16 yrs. and all children >57"	(P for people <19 yrs.); 16+ yrs. in all seats	S
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**	8 until 18 yrs.	18+ yrs. in all seats	S
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**	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 ^{16**}	8 until 16 yrs.	16+ yrs. in all seats	P
West Virginia	Under 8 yrs. ^{17**}	8 until 18 yrs. & over 57"	8 until 18 yrs. in all seats; 18+ yrs. in front seat	S
Wisconsin	Under 1 yr. or <20 lbs. in a rear-facing safety seat; 1- yrs. & >40 lbs.; 4-8 yrs., 40 – 80 lbs. and <57" in booster seat ^{18**}	Under 8 yrs., 80+ lbs. or 57+"	8+ yrs. in all seats	P
Wyoming	Under 9 yrs., must be in rear seat if available ^{19**}	9+ yrs.	9+ yrs. in all seats	S

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

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

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

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

19 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.

Occupant Protection Laws

*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.