

HENDERSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY	<u>AUXILIARY</u> School Bus Safety Belts	912
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SCHOOL BUS SAFETY BELTS

The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring the safe transport of every child to and from school each day of the school year. School buses are the safest form of transportation for students, and the use of lap/shoulder belts supports that level of safety.

Current Federal Standards require large school buses, defined as a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of over 10,000 pounds, to provide crash protection through “compartmentalization.” Compartmentalization refers to the design of school bus seat compartments to absorb force impacts from child passengers both forwards and backwards. Research has shown compartmentalization to be effective in protecting bus occupants in frontal and rear-end impacts, but students must be properly seated and remain in their “compartments” to be protected.

On Henderson County Public School busses equipped with three-point lap-shoulder seat belt systems, seat belt use shall be mandatory for student riders.

All children will receive instruction on the proper use of seat belts on school busses at least three (3) times each year. The Bus Driver shall be charged with applying and enforcing this policy requirement using standard LEA standards and procedures as it pertains to student behavior management.

Note: Drivers are not responsible (i.e. liable) for students wearing belts while riding. Drivers are responsible for instructing students to fasten belts before and, when applicable, during travel.