

Give your child a BOOST

Kansas law requires children ages 4, 5, 6 and 7 be secured in a booster seat.

4 Steps for Kids



Children under 1

Children must ride in a rear-facing child seat until they reach at least 1 year old and 20 pounds.



Children ages 1, 2 and 3

Children ages 1, 2 and 3 must be properly restrained in a forward-facing child seat.



Children ages 4, 5, 6 and 7

All children ages 4, 5, 6, and 7 are required to ride in a booster seat *unless*:

- the child weighs more than 80 pounds, or
- the child is taller than 4 feet 9 inches, or
- only a lap belt is available.

Children who meet the above height and weight criteria must be protected by a seat belt.



Children ages 8 through 13

Children ages 8 through 13 must be protected by a seat belt.

KANSAS **Safety Belt
Education** OFFICE



www.kansasboosterseat.org

Why do children ages 4, 5, 6 and 7 need to ride in a booster seat?

Seat belts are made to fit adults and do not protect children properly. Booster seats work by raising a child up so that the lap and shoulder belt are positioned safely. **Booster seats reduce the risk of injury by 59% as compared to using only seat belts.**

high-back
booster seat



no-back
booster seat



What kinds of booster seats are there?

There are two kinds: high-back and no-back. A **high-back booster seat** provides head and neck support and can be used in all vehicles that have lap/shoulder safety belt systems. Some forward-facing car seats convert to become a high-back booster seat. A **no-back booster seat** should only be used in vehicles with built-in head rests. All boosters should be used with the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt system, never a lap belt only.

Where do I purchase a booster seat and how much does one cost?

Booster seats are available at department stores, toy stores and other retail outlets. A no-back booster seat costs approximately \$15, and a high-back booster seat ranges from \$20-\$100 depending on the style. If you need assistance, call 1-866 SEAT CHECK for the location of the nearest child seat inspection station.

✓ Safety Tips

- Always follow the instructions provided with your seat and vehicle.
- Teach your child to buckle up and to pull up on the shoulder belt to make the lap belt tight.
- All booster seats are required by law to comply with the same safety standards as child seats.
- The lap belt should rest low across the pelvic area on the hip bones - the lap belt should never rest on the stomach area.
- Make sure the shoulder belt is snug across the chest and rests flat across the center of the collar bone; the shoulder belt should never be placed behind a child's back or under the arm.
- The booster seat should follow the child. Make sure carpools, child care providers, family, and friends have access to your child's booster seat.

? Questions

Contact Safe Kids Kansas at (785) 296-0351 or Kansas Safety Belt Education Office at (800) 416-2522

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