

Ever wonder why your child's School Bus doesn't have seat belts?

Simple logic would suggest your child's School Bus must have seat belts. The law requires it in your car it certainly must be true with the bus as well, right? Wrong..... Most national researchers, transportation agencies and bus driver groups say the benefits don't out weigh the draw backs. The key word is **compartmentalization**. High back padded seats protect children similar to egg cartons protecting an egg. The seats cushion the blow at impact. Lap belts, especially ones that are fastened incorrectly, may cause more damage than they prevent. Secondly, could you imagine the panic of 50 to 60 young children if there were a fire, accident or other major evacuation situation? Chances are the students wouldn't escape before the bus filled with thick, black, toxic smoke. Evacuation time from a school bus is critical. Training exercises have proven it only takes seconds for the bus to be filled with smoke, surely trapping many innocent students.

Everyone is aware that weapons are not allowed at school. Take a school bus with 24 seats and 3 sets of seat belts per seat. Folks this would be the start of World War III. Hard steel or plastic belt buckles would most certainly cause more head injuries than they prevent. This would bring the term "Weapons of Mass Destruction" a new meaning.

Have an open mind when you notice commercial messages questioning why School Buses don't have seat belts. Most of these messages are sponsored by seat belt manufacturers. They simply want to peddle their product. Imagine the financial gain if they retrofit Americas nearly 500,000 School Buses.

The School Bus Industry is pro-active, with safety it's main concern. Students are at their safest when on board the bus....PERIOD. The most dangerous time is during pickup or drop-off. This is the time when the community must pay attention. Always look for danger when you are near a School Bus. Your child's safety depends on it.

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