

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY NEWS



Aug 25, 2025

From Cesi Velez, Project Manager

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer. It seems to pass by so quickly. Be sure to stay active with conducting seat checks to keep your skills and knowledge up to date. If you are challenged with child passenger safety efforts; let me know how I can be of assistance and support your efforts.

2026 WASHINGTON CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SUMMIT

June 16 Instructor Enrichment
June 17 and 18 Instructor and Technician Support

Wenatchee Convention Center

We need your input!

What would you like to see on the agenda for the CPST Instructor Enrichment?

What would you like repeated or included to support technicians?

Send your recommendations to velezc@cobl.us

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO CURRENT GRANTEES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

All invoices for goods received, or services performed on or prior to Sept 30th, **must be received by Cesi Velez, Project Manager, by Oct 20th.**

As a Service Provider (mentoring, CEU, seat sign-offs) you must also invoice for services performed prior to June 30th by July 20th. You can find invoice templates at <https://wacarseats.com/technicians-resources/>

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY NEWS

WA CPS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Washington's Child Passenger Safety Program is accepting applications for mini-grants to support activities for fiscal year 2026 (October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026). If you are interested in applying, watch the REQUIRED pre-application webinar and invite your fiscal person to view as well. It covers tips for generating an application, the scoring process, and includes information about submitting for reimbursement payments. **Proposals will be accepted through September 25th.**

If you are a contractor for the State's program and/or a service provider for grant recipients; you are also REQUIRED to watch the webinar. The session includes important information on expectations of services, evaluations, completing invoices, and service fees.

What are your goals for next year? Would you like to host a child passenger safety technician course? Provide continuing education units and seat sign-off opportunities? Conduct a special event at an elementary school or daycare? The mini-grant program can help support your efforts!

<https://wacarseats.com/mini-grants/>

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

- September 21-27, 2025: Child Passenger Safety Week
- September 27, 2025: National Seat Check Saturday

Keeping children safe while traveling is a top priority for parents and caregivers, and often parents seek out information regarding car seat safety. Child Passenger Safety Week is a great opportunity to share safety information with partners and across communities. In addition to evergreen material, there are also several documents and creative material specific to Child Passenger Safety Week. Many assets are available in English and Spanish.

[Get Material Now](#)

There are many social media ready items found at <https://wacarseats.com/posters-graphics/>

SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE SUPPORT TEAM

SAFE KIDS' TEAM CERT IS HERE TO HELP!

Technical content and questions, understanding Certification policies and procedures
contact: Cass Herring at certadvisor@ [safekids.org](mailto:certadvisor@safekids.org)

Recertification, managing a course, or paying a fee (roster issues)
contact: Wardell Bonner or Theresa Jean at cpscert@safekids.org or 202-875-6330

Pre-approvals for CEUs, technician proxy applications, instructor candidacy applications, Nursing Continuing Education credits
contact: Stephanie Heitsch at sheitsch@safekids.org

Audit questions, cpsaudit@safekids.org

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY NEWS

BECOME A BABY SAFETY AMBASSADOR!

Baby Safety Month begins September 1, and it only takes a minute to sign up as a Safety Ambassador.

The [Baby Safety Alliance](https://www.babysafetyalliance.org/) (was JPMA) is the voice of safety & quality for baby and children's products, helping educate parents and caregivers on the safe selection and use of baby products. They promote the safety of baby and children's products—because every baby deserves the safest possible start!

To learn more visit <https://www.babysafetyalliance.org/general/custom.asp...>

TOT SQUAD AND TARGET PARTNER

This partnership provides one-on-one guidance to help parents confidently choose baby products. Items included are car seats, strollers, high chairs, and more. It appears the consult with a Baby Specialist is free where they get personalized product advice or set up a Target Baby Registry. The parent may then choose from a variety of services; one of which can be a virtual seat check for \$50.00. A Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) ensure that any car seat, brand, or model is properly installed and meets safety standards.

AMAZON PURCHASE OF SEATS

I received a follow-up email after purchasing seats for one of our active agencies. Nice work!

In partnership with 501 (c)(3) nonprofit and child safety advocates the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) and Safe Kids Worldwide, we're committed to providing important safety resources for our customers. Based on your purchase history, we recommend reviewing the following car seat safety tips:

Children are safer in the back seat

All children under age 13 should ride in a rear seat, and some state laws even require rear seat placement.

Never place a rear-facing car seat in a front passenger seat with an active frontal air bag.

Adjust the harness to fit the child properly

Follow the car seat instructions to properly adjust the harness height for your child, noting that the instructions differ for rear-facing or forward-facing use, and many models also have adjustable buckle strap positions.

Tighten the harness straps snugly, pulling extra webbing from the hip areas through to the shoulders or wherever the harness tightens

A snug strap should not allow any slack. You should not be able to vertically pinch excess webbing at the shoulder once the harness is tightened.

Place the chest clip at armpit level

This feature helps to keep the harness straps properly positioned for crash protection.

In cold weather, do not dress the child in bulky coats or snowsuits when riding in a car seat

Bulky clothing makes it difficult to properly tighten the harness on the child, and that may reduce crash protection. Safer options are to place a blanket over the properly harnessed child or to put the coat on the child backwards after the child is correctly buckled.

Thank you for reviewing these important safety tips. For more detailed information and resources visit our car seat safety page.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY NEWS

There is only ONE car seat check form used in Washington for seat checks in order to receive support from the State CPS Program. It is the National Digital Check Form V9. You can find this form on the website at <https://wacarseats.com/technicians-resources/> in English and Spanish. You can also order pre-printed forms from the State Printer; just set up an account and place your order at myprint.wa.gov.

As a child passenger safety technician, if using a hard copy during a seat check, you must input the information into the [National Digital Check Form](#) to record your activity.

As a nationally certified child passenger safety technician, you should have an account in the NDCF system. Create a user account and have a copy of your CPST certification card to submit. Each time you recertify, you will need to upload your certification card into the NDCF system. If you are struggling with getting used to the NDCF format, visit <https://www.cpsboard.org/ndcf/tutorial-videos/> It has numerous tutorials that will help you with setting up an account, adding your agency, and much more.

Your new NDCF account/profile is initially blocked until it is reviewed and approved. You then will receive an automated email. In this email is a link to click on to access your account and reset your password. Your name and technician number will not populate on the NDCF until you have completed this step.

TIMELY input of your seat checks is critical to gathering data and activity reports. Many of you utilize a tablet for direct input into the system; while others prefer to use a hard copy then enter the data on your desktop. BOTH methods work and are acceptable. Ensure your data is uploaded to the system regularly to meet the following:



NDCF SEAT CHECKS	ALL DATA DUE TO SYSTEM
October, November, December	January 10th
January, February, March	April 10th
April, May, June	July 10th
July, August, September	October 10th

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY NEWS

EXPANDING OUR STATEWIDE NETWORK

TECHNICIANS: Washington's child passenger safety network is consistently looking for new technicians. If you know of someone interested in becoming, or who you just **know** will make a great technician, refer them to <https://cert.safekids.org/>. The ideal candidate will care deeply about kids and want to make sure they are safe on every ride.

INSTRUCTORS: If you know an experienced CPS technician with great presentation skills, enjoys helping others be successful, and a welcoming and approachable nature, suggest they consider becoming a CPST instructor. Visit <https://cert.safekids.org/resources-faqs/forms/becoming-an-instructor-or-technician-proxy> to learn more.

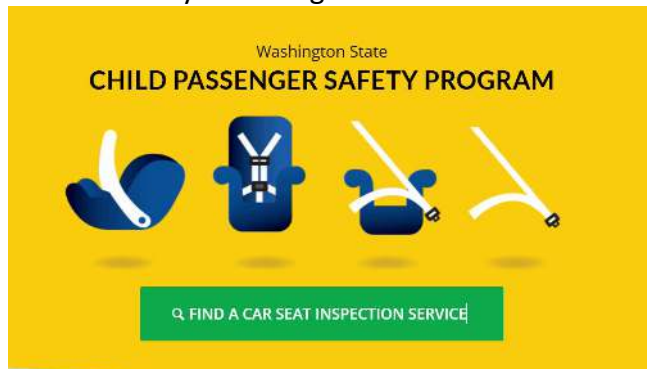
TECHNICIAN PROXY: One of the most challenging recertification requirements is obtaining seat sign-offs. A valuable tool is to utilize Proxies in areas where CPST instructors are not readily available. Technician Proxies are able to provide [seat check reviews and sign offs](#) for recertification. They must adhere to the rigorous standards in place for seat check reviews in terms of seat check feedback on communication and technical skill.

After at least six months of CPST certification and working many events to gain extensive hands-on experience, a Child Passenger Safety Technician may consider applying to be a Proxy.

A one-time registration fee of \$25 and a completed application (which includes one testimonial from a Certified Instructor and a second from a Technician or Instructor) are required.

If you are interested in becoming a proxy, visit <https://cert.safekids.org/resources-faqs/forms/becoming-an-instructor-or-technician-proxy> and complete the application.

When a family is looking for a local resource for a seat check, remember to refer them to www.wacarseats.com.



Visit this site to ensure your contact information is up to date. Send Cesi any changes or deletions.
velezc@cobl.us