Should School Buses Have Seat Belts?

Reading Comprehension: Making a Case

Read each statement below. Does each statement tell a reason people give for installing seat belts on buses or for not installing them? Circle I next to each statement that offers an argument for installing seat belts on school buses. Circle NI next to each statement that presents a reason people might give for not installing seat belts.

1. I  NI  Of the 42,000 people killed in traffic accidents, only 6 are children on school buses.
2. I  NI  School buses are safe enough already.
3. I  NI  High-backed seats on school buses help to “package children like eggs.”
4. I  NI  Lap and shoulder belts reduce injuries by 45 percent.
5. I  NI  Padded seats are all that is needed to protect students from harm.
6. I  NI  Buses are seven times safer than cars and light trucks.
7. I  NI  Kids who wear seat belts on buses often end up with less serious injuries.
8. I  NI  Students behave better when they have to wear seat belts.
9. I  NI  Adding seat belts to buses will cost too much money.
10. I  NI  Each year, accidents kill six children on school buses -- and that’s too many.

Language Practice: Word Meaning

Color the circle before the word that means nearly the same as the word in bold type.

1. Experts have studied **statistics** about school bus safety.
   - O a. books    O b. data    O c. population    O d. accidents
2. They say that lap and shoulder belts can help **reduce** injuries by 45 percent.
   - O a. cause    O b. lose    O c. increase    O d. decrease
3. If it is passed, the new law will **require** bus companies to add seat belts to buses.
   - O a. install    O b. order    O c. invite    O d. ask
4. Some people say seat belts help to “**package** children like eggs.”
   - O a. sell    O b. mail    O c. contain    O d. improve

Reading Comprehension: Main Idea

Color the circle next to the statement that best sums up the main idea of this week’s News for You article.

O  a. School buses travel 4.3 billion miles each year.
O  b. Some people say seat belts are needed on school buses, but others say they aren’t.
O  c. School bus accidents in the United States take the lives of a handful of students each year.
O  d. Some lawmakers say laws must be passed to require seat belts on school buses.

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