

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

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