

Unique Child Passenger Safety Needs on School Buses

Safe Kids Grand Forks serves as the training lead for North Dakota Child Passenger Safety on School Buses. This training is so important, considering many children may be unable to ride safely on a school bus without some sort of occupant securement system. This would include very small kids—infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, children with developmental or sensory needs and challenges, children who use wheelchairs, etc.

Over the course of the past 3 years, we have had the opportunity to train 140 school site and transportation professionals throughout the state. This comprehensive class includes how to use both regular car seats as well as school bus specific securement systems. Many students express surprise that car seats are able to be used on buses—it's a common misconception.

We are really hoping to make the school bus landscape safer for kids who have these needs—these students are particularly vulnerable and we are working toward getting champions and experts in all of our communities to make sure they are as safe as they possibly can be!

If you have youth in your home or school setting that you'd like to visit about other transportation options with our team of bus experts, please contact our office at safekids@altru.org or 701.780.1489. We'd love to help do some planning with you.



Our instructor team at the August 2025 training in Bismarck in front of the school bus loaned to us by Bismarck Public Schools.



Photo on left: Tina with a little friend in one of the bus-only child passenger safety systems trained on

Photo on right: Instructor Krista Kovarik with North Dakota Highway Patrol training in Bismarck