



Booster Seat Regulations & How it impacts your student

Effective January 1, 2020, ALL students who are shorter than 4 ft. 9 inches will need to be transported with a booster seat. **Cedar Tree has a headcount of LE and UE students who are shorter than 4'9" and this includes your child.** Your student must be transported with a booster seat. CTM will purchase some booster seats to help supplement those that parents bring.

See the law below and our procedure for using booster seats and carrying 9-12 year old students in the front seat.

***Washington State Law RCW 46.61.687 states:** *(updated and effective January 1, 2020)*

(1) Whenever a child who is less than sixteen years of age is being transported in a motor vehicle that is in operation and that is required by RCW [46.37.510](#) to be equipped with a safety belt system in a passenger seating position, or is being transported in a neighborhood electric vehicle or medium-speed electric vehicle that is in operation, the driver of the vehicle shall keep the child properly restrained as follows:

- a) Children ages 3-6 years old should use a **forward-facing car seat with a harness** when they have outgrown the rear-facing seat (check MAXIMUMS of car seat's rear-facing height or weight). Children should use a forward-facing car seat with a harness for AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. Keep child in car seat with harness up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.
- b) Booster seats are for older children who have outgrown the forward-facing car seat (check car seat's height or weight maximums). A **belt-positioning booster seat** is used until the vehicle's lap-and-shoulder seat belt fits properly. Booster seats must be used with a lap AND shoulder belt. **If your child climbs out of the booster seat or will not sit upright for an entire trip, it is not safe and too soon to switch.** Find a car seat with harness that will fit his/her height and weight.
- c) Children are large enough to use the **vehicle seat belt, without a booster seat, when they reach 4'9" tall.**
- d) The driver of a vehicle transporting a child who is under thirteen years old shall transport the child in the back seat positions in the vehicle where it is practical to do so.

<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/Rcw/default.aspx?cite=46.61.687>

Cedar Tree will only allow students ages 9-12, in the front seat when all the below are true:

- 1. The child is at least 4'9" tall.
- 2. There are not enough drivers for students to ride in the back
- 3. We have written permission from a parent/guardian that their student has parent/guardian permission to ride in the front seat of a vehicle.
- 4. We are making a short trip through town to get to our destination and no freeway driving is involved.