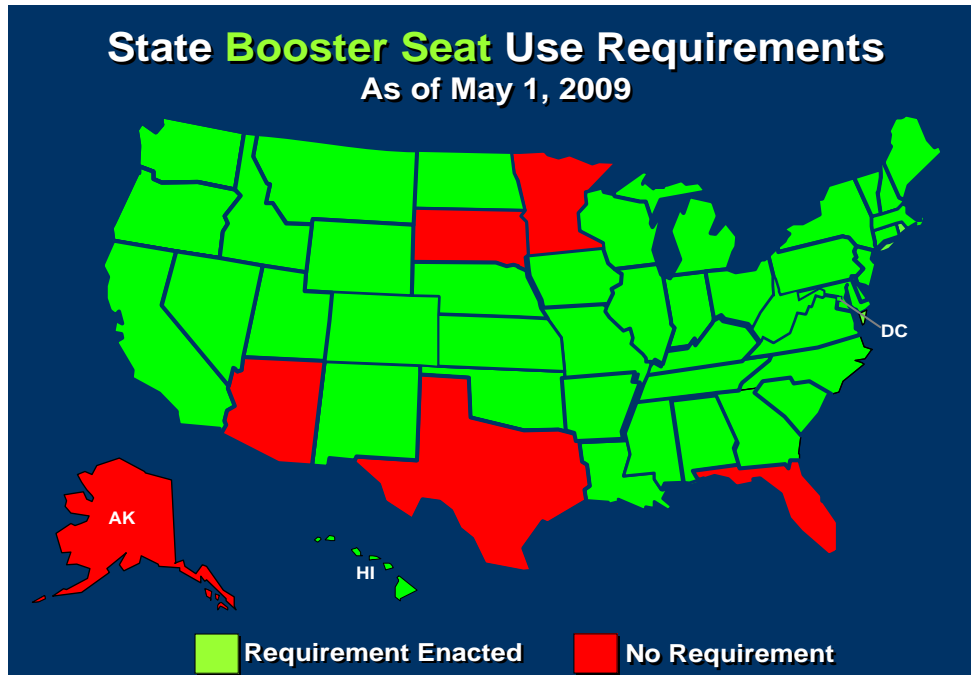


## State Booster Seat Use Requirements

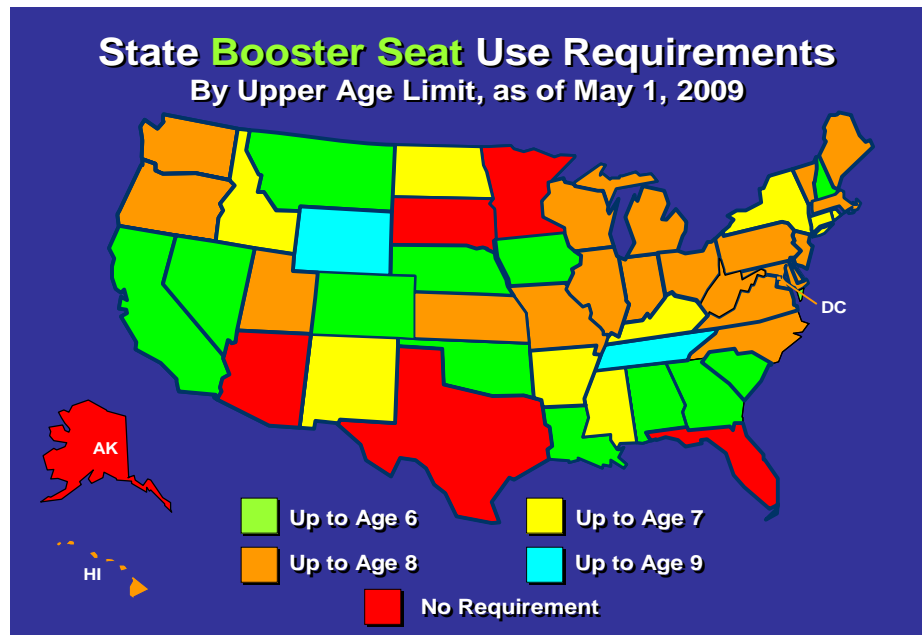
As of May 1, 2009, 44 States and the District of Columbia had enacted provisions in their child restraint laws requiring the use of a booster seat or other appropriate restraint device by children who have outgrown their forward-facing child safety seats, but who are still too small to use an adult seat belt system safely. Specific provisions vary widely from State to State, including the upper age limit, and height and/or weight requirements.



The following jurisdictions have enacted these lifesaving provisions:

Alabama	Maryland	South Carolina
Arkansas	Michigan	Tennessee
California	Mississippi	Utah
Colorado	Missouri	Vermont
Connecticut	Montana	Washington
District of Columbia	Nebraska	Virginia
Delaware	Nevada	West Virginia
Georgia	New Hampshire	Wisconsin
Hawaii	New Jersey	Wyoming
Idaho	New Mexico	
Iowa	New York	
Illinois	North Carolina	
Indiana	North Dakota	
Kansas	Ohio	
Kentucky	Oklahoma	
Louisiana	Oregon	
Maine	Pennsylvania	
Massachusetts	Rhode Island	

Only Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Minnesota, South Dakota and Texas have yet to enact booster seat use requirements.



In addition to passing booster seat use requirements, States have strengthened their child restraint laws to protect older child passengers in a variety of other ways, including raising the age requirements, requiring child passengers to ride in the back seat, and eliminating gaps and exemptions that expose child passengers to needless risk.

Ohio enacted its requirement -- which requires booster seat by children ages 4 through 7 years who weigh 40 pounds or more and who are shorter than 57 inches tall -- in January 2009; the new provision will take effect in October 2009. In 2008, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan and Utah strengthened their laws to require restraint use by child passengers up to age 8, unless they are 4'9" tall. In addition, Kentucky and Mississippi upgraded their laws in 2008 to mandate booster seat use by children up to age 7, unless they are 50" tall or 56" tall, respectively.

Eighteen States and Washington, D.C. qualified for special Federal funding in 2008 under the Section 2011 incentive grant program. Those jurisdictions are: Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

According to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, booster seats lower the risk of injury to children in crashes by 59% compared to the use of vehicle seat belts alone. For details, go to [http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/injury/files/PCPS\\_Reports/peps\\_cpsreprt\\_04.pdf](http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/injury/files/PCPS_Reports/peps_cpsreprt_04.pdf). For additional details on the provisions of State child restraint laws, visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) or <http://www.iihs.org/laws/ChildRestraint.aspx>.

*Source: NHTSA Occupant Protection Division, May 1, 2009*