SUBJECT: Child Passenger Safety Policy
AGENCY: Perry County Transit
EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2026
APPROVED BY: Cheryl Boley, CEO
APPROVAL DATE: 12/31/2025
VERSION: V.2026.7

Policy

This policy ensures that children transported by Perry County Transit (PCT) are secured in accordance with Ohio child restraint requirements and best safety practices. The goal is to protect child passengers and to comply with Ohio Revised Code §4511.81.

Definitions

- **Child Restraint System**: A federally approved infant seat, convertible seat, combination seat, integrated child seat, or other device designed to restrain children.
- **Booster Seat**: A belt-positioning device used with a vehicle lap-shoulder belt to improve fit.
- **Seatbelt**: A lap or lap-shoulder belt installed by the vehicle manufacturer.

Age, Height and Weight Requirements

Child's Age/Size	Required Restraint
Under 4 years of age OR under 40 pounds	Must be secured in a federally approved child restraint system appropriate for the child's weight and height.
4 to 8 years old, unless the child is 4'9" (57") or taller	Must be secured in a belt-positioning booster seat used with a lap-shoulder belt.
Age 8 to 15	Must use a seatbelt when seated in any seat where belt is available.

No child may be transported without an appropriate restraint when required under the above criteria.

PERRY COUNTY TRANSIT

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- The parent/guardian is responsible for providing the child's appropriately sized car seat or booster seat when traveling.
- The child's restraint device must be in good working condition and free from damage, recalls, or expiration.
- If the caregiver does not provide the required restraint, transportation may be refused until proper equipment is available.
- The parent/guardian is responsible for securing the child in a child restraint system, booster seat or seatbelt.

Driver Responsibility

- The driver must ensure that any child transported is properly secured before the vehicle moves.
- Drivers may assist caregivers with positioning seatbelts and securing booster seats only if trained and permitted under agency procedure.
- If the driver determines that a restraint cannot be used safely, the trip must be paused and supervisor/dispatch contacted for guidance.

Special Considerations

- **Children with Disabilities**: If a child requires a specialized restraint system, caregivers must supply and secure the appropriate approved device. Drivers should not require a child to be removed from a mobility device if doing so would be unsafe or medically inappropriate.
- **Medical Exemption**: A medical exemption is permitted only with written documentation from a licensed physician stating that use of a standard restraint is not safe due to physical or medical condition. The documentation must be filed with the agency prior to transport.
- **Shared Ride Service**: Children may be transported on shared routes, but all restraint requirements apply regardless of service type.

Procedure

- Office Associates are required to verify the following at time of scheduling for all child passengers:
  - Obtain the child's age, weight and height to verify the required restraint for the passenger.
  - No child under that age of five (5) years shall not be transported without a parent or guardian accompanying them.
  - A supervisor or member of management must be notified whenever a request is made for a child between the ages of five (5) and twelve (12) to ride without a parent or guardian present.
  - Notify the parent or guardian of the required restraint that must be provided for the child in order for PCT to provide transport.
  - Update the ECOLane account for the passenger, placing clear notes of the required restraint for the passenger.

- PCT Drivers are required to perform the following checks prior to departure:
  - Review tablet for passenger's required restraint information
  - Confirm child's age and size requirement, if unknown
  - Verify the child passenger is secured properly
  - Check harness snugness and seatbelt routing
  - Confirm booster seats are secured only with lap-shoulder belts
  - If compliance cannot be achieved, DO NOT transport and notify supervisor/dispatch

Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy:

- Passengers:
  - May result in refusal of transport for the trip in question
  - Incident will be documented and reviewed for further direction
- Employees
  - Violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination