
CPS Express

E-News for Child Passenger Safety Professionals



TOP NEWS

ALERT: Stop Spinning

If you are in your CPS online profile and the page won't load (spinning circle), it is probably because you are using Internet Explorer for the browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with some web pages because it is no longer supported/updated.

The solution is to use a different browser such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Edge.

Safe Kids Worldwide Team Cert is Here to Help!

The Safe Kids team is available to help you with recertification, course management, CEU audits and any other certification-related issues.

- Technical content and questions, understanding Certification policies and procedures, contact Cass Herring at certadvisor@safekids.org
 - Recertification, managing a course, or paying a fee (roster issues), contact Wardell Bonner at cpscercert@safekids.org, or 202-875-6330
 - Pre-approvals for CEUs, technician proxy applications, instructor candidacy applications, Nursing Continuing Education credits, contact Stephanie Heitsch at sheitsch@safekids.org
 - General certification questions or feedback, contact Shushanna Mignott at smignott@safekids.org
 - Audit questions, contact Debbie Landoskey at cpsaudit@safekids.org
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Recertification Alternatives Phasing Out in January 2023

The recertification alternatives for technicians and instructors will no longer be available after December 31, 2022. You may still utilize those alternatives for recertification until that point. Currently CPST/Is may submit additional CEU's in place of reviewed seat checks and CPSTIs can submit additional Community Education hours in place of teaching hours. See the Policy Addendum at [Recertification Alternatives for COVID](#).

If you earn recertification alternatives and enter them in your certification profile by December 31, 2022, those will count for your current recertification cycle. You will not be able to enter those alternatives after December 31, 2022.

Example: My recertification date is 5/20/23. I earn 1CEU on 8/15/2022 and would like to use it as a seat check alternative. I must enter that alternative in my profile by December 31, 2022. Once that is entered into my profile it will count towards my recertification requirements. If it is not entered by that date, you will not be able to count it as a recertification alternative, but it can still be logged as a CEU.

Submitted by Cass Herring, Director of Child Occupant Protection, Safe Kids Worldwide.
(Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Instructor Candidate Process

Experienced CPS technicians who are ready to help others learn how to become technicians should consider working towards becoming a certified instructor. To earn this certification, CPS Technicians must follow the basic steps for becoming a certified instructor:

- Become a certified technician and maintain your certification throughout your instructor candidacy
- Gain experience in the CPS field
- Gather the required information for the [Application for Instructor Candidacy](#)
- Participate in a Certification Course as a course assistant
- Register by paying the instructor candidate [application fee](#) after being a CPS technician for at least six months. At this time, you also should contact a certified instructor to discuss who your mentor will be and which class you will participate in as part of your instructor candidacy.
- Submit the [Application for Instructor Candidacy](#) to Safe Kids at least six weeks prior to the registered course that you wish to participate in as an instructor candidate. **Please make sure to submit a fully completed application after you have paid the application fee.**
- Once you are approved as an instructor candidate, work with your mentor and lead instructor to prepare to teach.
- Teach a Certification Course within one year of being approved as an instructor candidate. Minimum teaching requirements:
 - Lecture for at least five hours, divided among at least three modules
 - Set up at least one hands-on exercise (classroom and/or vehicle)
 - Lead at least one hands-on exercise
 - Participate fully in the course
- The lead instructor and your mentor will determine if you have passed or failed instructor candidacy and will send Safe Kids your score along with the [Instructor Candidate](#)

[Evaluation](#). Upon successful completion of instructor candidacy, your status will change to Certified Instructor. There is no limit to the number of times you can teach a Certification Course as an instructor candidate during your one-year candidacy period. If you do not receive a passing score on the first try, you are free to try again in another course within the one-year time frame.

- Continue working to improve your technical and teaching skills, fulfill your obligations as an instructor, and eventually, consider becoming a lead instructor or a mentor.
- Make sure their technician certification does not expire during the candidacy period.
- Visit the Application and the Candidacy Process, sections of this website, refer to the section about instructor candidacy in our [Policies & Procedures Manual](#), and review the various [tools for instructor candidates, mentors and instructors](#).

Submitted by Stephanie Heitsch, Certification Associate, Safe Kids Worldwide. (Port Orange, Florida)

Beyond the Seat Check for Instructors and Technician Proxies

The primary purpose of an instructor/technician proxy for verification of the seat check activity required for recertification is observation of interactions with parents and children. Signing off seat checks for recertification should never be a routine task and the sign off should not be based solely on the end result of the seat installation. The instructor/technician proxy verifying seat check activity should feel confident in the technical and communication skills of the technician/instructor they are reviewing. The seat check should be observed from first contact with caregiver through to the caregiver signing off on the checkup form. CPSTs are educators first and foremost which means their communication skills to educate caregivers to confidently use and install car seats, booster seats and seat belts is just as important as their technical skills.

Instructors and technician proxies should be listening to the education being given to caregivers to ensure all information is being provided and questions are being answered accurately and consistent with the information and methodologies detailed in the standardized curriculum, including next steps. Ensuring proper resources are being referenced such as the car seat and vehicle manuals, websites and provided materials.

Currently there are over 34,500 certified CPSTs with only 598 having a technician proxy [designation](#). Recertification requires that technicians and instructors demonstrate technical and communications skills during each of five seat checks in the presence of an instructor or technician proxy. Since there are only 1780 instructors, technician proxies were created to help bridge the gap in parts of the country where there are few certified instructors. Technician proxies can review and approve seat checks for recertification. The process for becoming a technician proxy is having at least 6 months of CPST experience, completing an application with testimonials about your CPS technical skills and paying a one-time fee. Check out the technician proxy [FAQs](#) if you need more information.

So, what do you do if a CPST is providing inaccurate information to a caregiver or is skipping over important information? Before the seat check begins have an understanding how you want to address any issues which may arise as to not embarrass the technician. Whether it is saying something as easy as “Can I speak with you a minute” This will allow you to privately discuss the issues and allowing the CPST to go back to the caregiver and reexplain or reclarify the information. You can also ask leading questions which may spark the technician to remember

the information. Know that it is okay to have a technician repeat a seat check before signing them off if you are not confident with their technical and communication skills.

As a reminder, mock seat checks should only be done as a last resort. During this type of seat check sign off, a colleague acts out the part of the parent which should replicate the education and interactions of a real-life seat check session.

Submitted by Debbie Landoskey, Quality Assurance Specialist, Safe Kids Worldwide. (Ormond Beach, Florida)

CPS Board is Accepting Applications

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is looking to fill three positions. The terms of service for each position will be May 2023 - May 2026. The positions are Child Passenger Safety Advocate, Child Passenger Safety Advocate At-Risk/Underserved Populations, and Vehicle Manufacturer Representative. To learn more about these positions visit: cpsboard.org.

The deadline for application submissions is **September 30, 2022**.

CONFERENCES AND OBSERVATIONS

Transporting Students with Disabilities & Special Needs Conference and Trade Show

RESCHEDULED DATE! November 8–12, 2022

Frisco, Texas

<https://go.pardot.com/e/957122/2022-09-14/6nhv5/216984088?h=inF5t4KqAOJNNXfYpJwJ7ijDNpbb682bMxCzOuLHfg>

2022 CPS Week

September 18–24

Seat Check Saturday—September 24

CPS Checkups Without Borders

Join in to promote a national Virtual Car Seat Checkup event, in support of NHTSA's Seat Check Saturday observance. Our shared goal is to have at least one technician from each state participate, to truly make it a national event, and we are scheduling it late in the day so it doesn't conflict with other community efforts. Please spread the word to your network. Techs who sign up to work will receive artwork to promote appointments and orientation/training before the event.

Saturday, September 24 – 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. E.T.

Partners include MD Kids in Safety Seats, District Department of Transportation, JPMA, MACPS, Safe Kids Worldwide, Graco and NUNA.

CEU and Community Education Resources

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge. Learn more.

Upcoming NCPSB webinars for Safe Kids publications. Registration for each can be found at <https://go.pardot.com/e/957122/webinars/6nhvc/216984088?h=i-nF5t4KqAOJNNXfYpJwJ7ijDNpbb682bMxCzOuLHfg>

Tuesday, Oct. 11 (2-3 p.m. ET): Oldies But Goodies? CPS in Older Vehicles

- What makes a car “old” as far as CPS goes, and why is it important to understand differences in these older cars? This session will cover what to look for and expect in old cars, how to find their owner’s manuals and look up recalls and review key differences and “lost arts” when it comes to installing car seats in older vehicles.
- Presenter: Denise Donaldson, Child Passenger Safety Technician/Instructor, Safe Ride News Publications

Tuesday, Nov. 15 (2-3 p.m. ET): 15-Passenger Vans: What You Need to Know Before You Go *NEW DATE*

5-passenger vans differ from passenger vehicles in that they are higher, wider and longer. Join the NCPSB to learn how to minimize risks through proper loading, passenger safety, operation and maintenance.

Presenter: Tammy Franks, National Safety Council

National CPS Week Special (1.5 CEUs)

Tuesday, Sept. 20 (2-3:30 p.m. ET): Tech Guide 2.0 – A Deeper Dive into the “Why”.

As a technician or instructor have you ever wondered about the “why” behind some of the CPS best practices you learned or teach in class? Are you looking for tips for answering caregivers’ questions related to side air bags or other technology? If so, join us for this session presented by the National Child Passenger Safety Board’s Vehicle and Car Seat Manufacturer Representatives who will take you inside the industry to give you a better understanding of the driving forces behind many recommendations and ideas for explaining these concepts to caregivers.

Presenters: Daniella Brown, Child Restraint Manufacturer Representative, National Child Passenger Safety Board; and Jennifer Pelky, Vehicle Manufacturer Representative, National Child Passenger Safety Board.

Upcoming Safe Kids Webinars

Safe Kids is now using Zoom webinars. If you are not able to use Zoom or miss one, most webinars are recorded and posted on the CPS Board [website](#).

- Troubleshoot to avoid problems, run a [system check](#).
- [Can I use my smartphone?](#)
- [Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group?](#)

More webinars coming soon! Updates posted on [Facebook](#).

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?

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Ideas and Article Submissions

Advocates and manufacturers are welcome to submit articles, or suggestions for articles, to the CPS Express!

Send your ideas and submissions to CPScert@safekids.org.

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

[Policies and
Procedures Manual](#)

[CPS Technician Code
of Conduct](#)

[Contact Us for
Assistance](#)

NATIONAL
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A Program of
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National CPS Certification Training is a program of Safe Kids Worldwide, which is the certifying body and responsible for managing all aspects of the program.

Program Partners



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