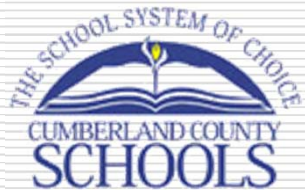

Lap-Shoulder Belts with FlexSeat

Can belted seats work
in your school district?



Presenter: Liz McGowan
Cumberland County Schools



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Agenda

- ☐ Involvement in FlexSeat Program
- ☐ Program Preparation
- ☐ Results
- ☐ Conclusions
- ☐ Q/A

Involvement in FlexSeat Program

November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Reasons for Involvement

- ❑ Rollover Sept. 12, 2007
- ❑ Increased parent interest in lap-shoulder belts for improved safety
- ❑ Led to involvement in FlexSeat program



Cumberland County Schools, NC

Lap-Shoulder Belt Considerations

Positive:

- ☐ Safety improvement
- ☐ Responds to parent demands

Negative:

- ☐ Capacity loss
- ☐ Added costs to operations

Capacity Issue Resolved



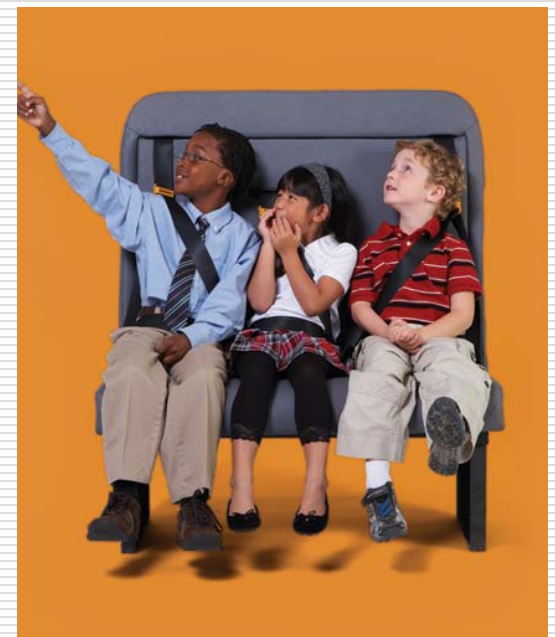
❑ 2 Child (or Adult)
Configuration



❑ 3 Child
Configuration

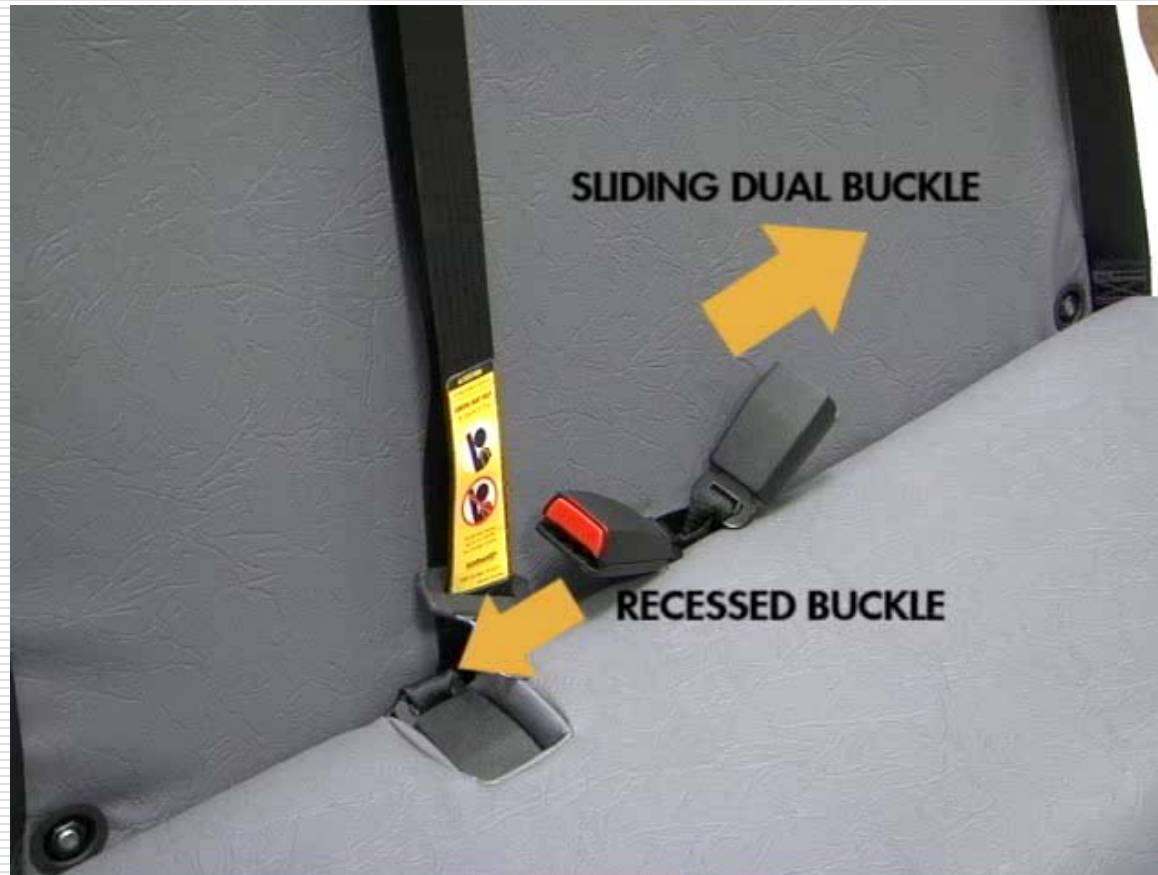
November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

SafeGuard FlexSeat™



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

How FlexSeat Works



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Demo of FlexSeat Operation



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Factory Installed

- ☐ Thomas C2 bus
- ☐ Shown at NAPT, October 2007
- ☐ First bus in the US equipped with FlexSeat
- ☐ One seat lost on driver side*

*No seat loss on 2008 model



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Program Preparation

November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Training Driver, Children

- ❑ Children – expectations for use, evacuation procedures
- ❑ Driver – product usage, policy enforcement, evacuation



N
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Informing Parents

- ☐ Letters to parents with general information
- ☐ Meetings with parents and children



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Usage Policies

- ❑ Set in place with principals
- ❑ Typically school board level
- ❑ Discipline incident example
- ❑ Key: enforceable usage critical



N
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Pilot Overview

- ❑ Pilot began Nov. 13, 2007
- ❑ One bus with 23 FlexSeats
- ❑ Two routes – high school, elementary
- ❑ No changes in operations or routes
- ❑ Six months product use



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Results of Pilot

November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Feedback from Driver

- ☐ Was best year ever for driver in his 15 years of driving for CCS
- ☐ Seat belt usage consistent
- ☐ Policies helpful in reinforcing usage
- ☐ Reduction in behavior problems dramatic
- ☐ Other drivers ask about lap-shoulder belts and want their buses equipped
- ☐ Increased driver satisfaction
- ☐ Driver was diligent about seat maintenance



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Feedback from Elementary

- ☐ Several children note feeling safer
- ☐ Small children note feeling of being restrained/controlled
- ☐ Older children needed more reminding about required usage



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

End of Year High School Survey

- ☐ Approximately half discussed with parents and parents were pleased and positive.
- ☐ Most were satisfied with training and had no problems with buckling or height adjuster.
- ☐ All claimed to “Always” wear their belts.
- ☐ Main complaint was belt tightness at neck.
- ☐ Majority felt “safer” and that it was quieter inside the bus (“less chaotic”).

November, 2008

Cumberland County Schools, NC

Video Observations

- ❑ Video supports Driver observations, student feedback, and surveys.
- ❑ A few incidents, but overall behavior is good.



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Feedback from Administrators

- ❑ Positive because of reduction in disciplinary issues.
- ❑ Received positive comments from parents and teachers requesting more buses be equipped.



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Feedback from Parents

- ☐ Parents are positive
- ☐ Safety advantages are appreciated
- ☐ Would like to see more buses equipped



November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Conclusions

November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Impact on Operations

- ☐ Overall no operational impact, no additional hardships
- ☐ Implementation required initial training
- ☐ Morning route initially took a little longer
- ☐ Decreased vandalism, resulting in reduced seat maintenance
- ☐ Cost of seats is a factor
- ☐ Impact of behavior improvement, results in increased driver satisfaction
- ☐ Relationships with parents

November, 2008

Cumberland County Schools, NC

What We Learned

- ☐ Behavior improvement significant
- ☐ Parent satisfaction strong
- ☐ Policy is of great value
- ☐ Team effort required between schools, administration and parents
- ☐ Ongoing training is helpful
- ☐ Continuous communication is necessary

Future CCS Buses

- ☐ New activity bus purchased with lap-shoulder belts:
 - Highway travel – greatest risk exposure
 - Sports teams and field trips

- ☐ As funding is available, lap-shoulder belts will be recommended to board

Recommendations for NC

- ☐ School districts should consider lap-shoulder belts:
 - Improved behavior
 - Parent satisfaction
 - Driver satisfaction
 - Reduced maintenance
 - Student safety

- ☐ Flexible seating technology makes lap-shoulder belts practical

Q & A

November, 2008
Cumberland County Schools, NC

Thank You!

Liz McGowan

Executive Director of Transportation
Cumberland County Schools
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Phone: 910-678-2590

Email: lizm@ccs.k12.nc.us

November, 2008

Cumberland County Schools, NC