

LATCH and the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children

What is LATCH?

LATCH stands for “Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children”. It is a system mandated by the **Federal Government** in an effort to standardize and simplify the installation of child restraints without using the vehicles seat belt system. New vehicles and child safety seats manufactured on and after September 1, 2002 will be equipped with the LATCH system. This law also applies to buses with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,000 lbs and under. Vehicles will be required to have anchor points between the vehicles seat cushion and the seat back in at least two rear seating positions and a top tether anchor.

Child safety seats will have a lower set of attachments that fasten to the vehicle anchors. Most forward-facing child safety seats will also have a top strap (tether) that attaches to the top anchor in the vehicle. Together they make up the LATCH system.

Corbeil Manufactured School and MFSAB buses that have the LATCH seat positions are usually located in the 1st and 2nd rows on the passenger (right) side for better driver surveillance.