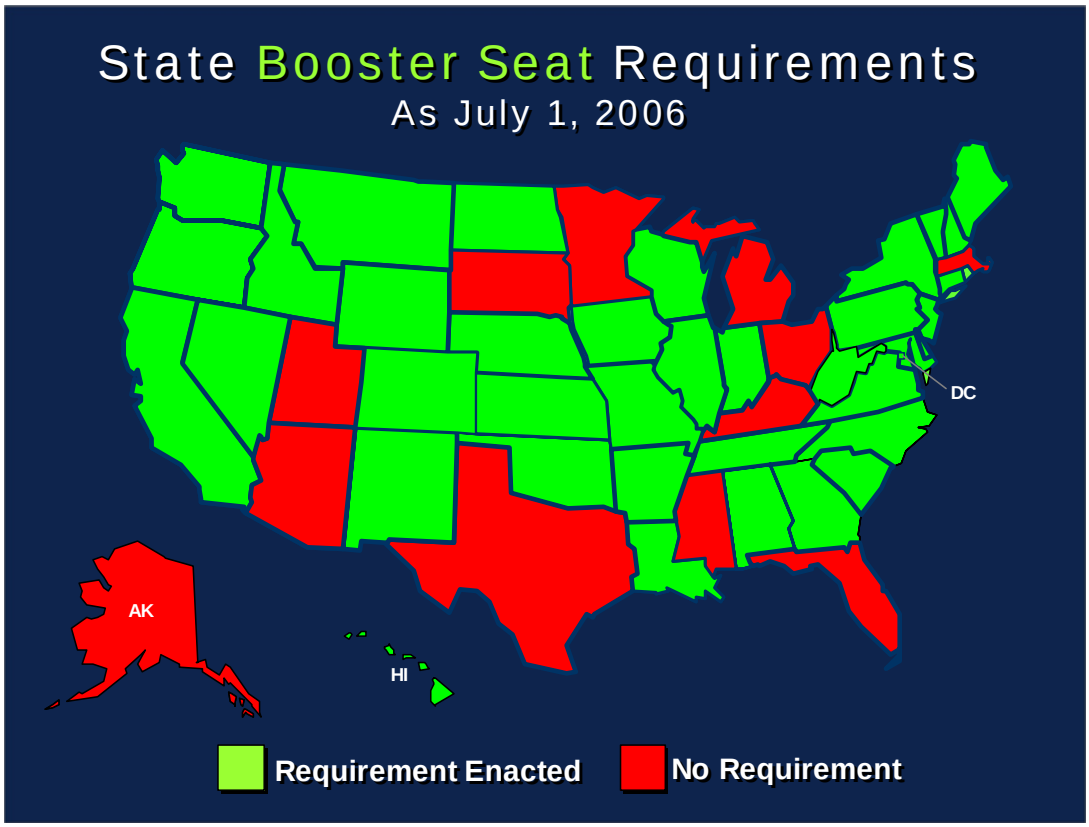
State Booster Seat Use Requirements in the U.S.

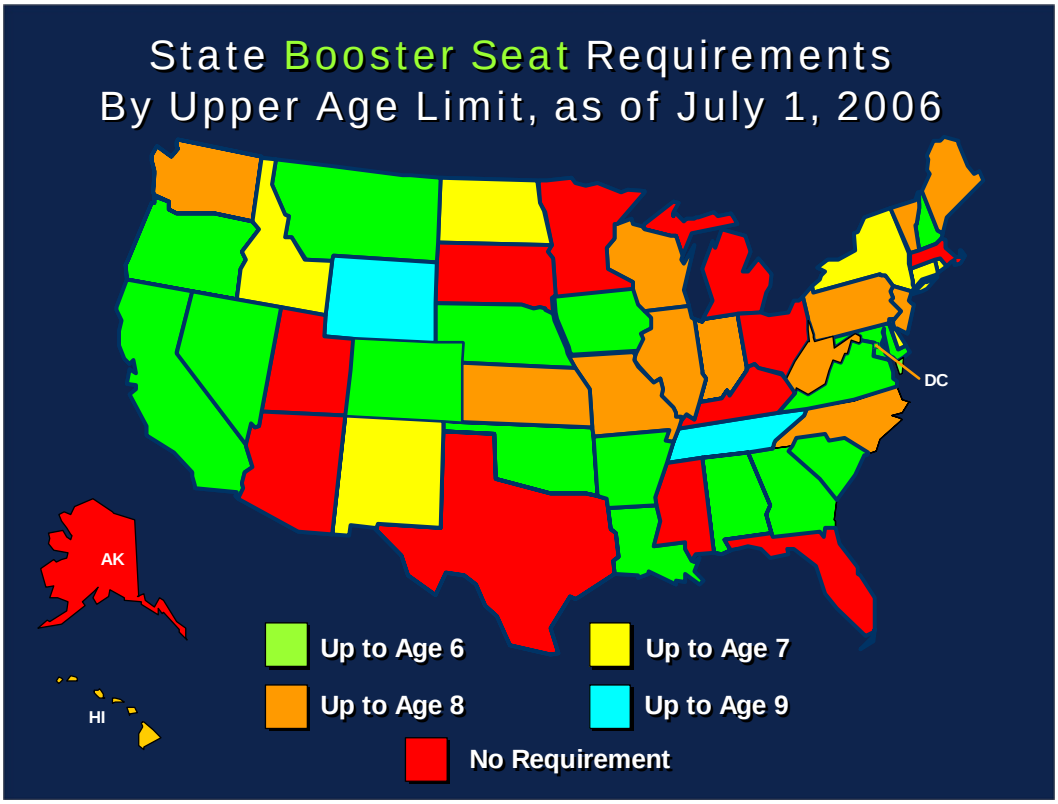
As of July 1, 2006, 38 States and the District of Columbia had enacted provisions in their child restraint laws requiring the use of a booster seat or other appropriate restraint device by children who have outgrown their forward-facing child safety seats, but who are still too small to use an adult safety belt system correctly.

The following jurisdictions have enacted these lifesaving provisions:

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



Specific provisions vary widely from State to State. All laws include an age limit, but some States also emphasize weight limits, while others also stipulate height requirements.



The most recently enacted requirements were in Alabama, Hawaii, Kansas, Missouri and Wisconsin, all of which were signed into law in 2006.

States have continued to strengthen their child restraint laws in other ways as well, such as requiring children to ride in the back seat, and prohibiting children, especially infants, from riding in the path of an active front passenger airbag.

Please note:

- In Washington State, the age requirement will rise from 6 to 8 years of age, effective June 1, 2007.

Additional details on state child restraint laws can be found at:

- http://www.iihs.org/laws/state_laws/restrain2.html
- http://www.saferoads.org/issues/BoosterSeatLawChart.pdf

Source: NHTSA Occupant Protection Division