

USD #112 Central Plains

Bushton, Claffin, Holyrood, Wilson

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Greg Clark, Superintendent

To: Rich Proehl

From: Greg Clark Superintendent USD 112 Central Plains

Subject: Seatbelts on School Buses (HB 2008)

Date: 1/20/17

Testimony Overview: USD 112 has had great success with the use of seatbelts in our school busses.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Central Plains began purchasing school buses with seatbelts in May of 2014. Our first trial run came with a bus that had seatbelts in the first two rows. The seatbelts were universally well liked and each bus ordered after that was ordered with seatbelts. In our current fleet, we have three busses that are equipped with seatbelts in every seat. Our district liked the seat belts and the safety they provided. Therefore every bus ordered since 2014 has been equipped with seatbelts. For every new bus ordered the additional cost to our district has been \$8,533. The USD 112 Board of Education and District Administration feel this is a good investment in the safety of our students.

Some Highlights for USD 112:

- Behavior of students on busses has improved due to the use of seatbelts
- USD 112 buses travel many dirt roads with blind intersections with no stop signs. The seatbelts give our bus drivers and parents piece of mind that their child will travel to and from school safely.
- USD 112 buses travel two major highways with semi-tractor trailer traffic. These roads are quite busy and the seatbelts help to ensure the student's safety.
- Students are trained the first day of school to ensure students know the right way to wear seatbelts to ensure their safety.
- We are still in the learning process with high school students. Our elementary students have adapted to wearing seatbelts, but our high school students still at times, give us a fight. We are hoping that by the time our elementary students are in high school, wearing seatbelts in buses will be second nature.

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- During our district transportation meetings we discussed the use of seatbelts. The bus drivers in our district felt seatbelts were a benefit and loved having them on their bus.
- The seat belts have been especially useful when transporting preschool-age children. Not only does it keep them safely in their seats, but prevents them from possibly opening an emergency door or other dangers.

Thank you for listening and if you have any questions I would be happy to answer them.

Greg Clark

Superintendent USD 112 Central Plains