



# Tech Talk

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*Remember,  
Always  
Buckle Up!*

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## Child Passenger Safety Advisory Board

*Steve Davis, GTIPI Director*

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety, in recognition of the need for an organized and unified method to support child passenger safety initiatives in Georgia, has directed the formation of a CPS Advisory Board. The Board patterned after the National CPS Board will have the mission to provide program direction and technical guidance to communities and organizations within Georgia and to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program (NSCPSTP).

For the past several months the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, SAFE KIDS of Georgia, Department of Human Resources Injury Prevention Unit and Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute have been meeting to develop a format and by-laws for the Advisory Board.

While some details remain to be completed, the primary duties of the Board will be to:

1. *Develop and recommend policies and procedures to be followed by agencies, programs or individuals conducting CPS training programs;*
2. *Coordinate and monitor sponsored CPS training activities and programs within Georgia;*
3. *Create a strategic plan for CPS in Georgia to include the identification of resources and methods to support and expand existing programs;*
4. *Review and insure that Georgia CPS training curriculums reflect current CPS technical information and comply with recommendations of the certifying body;*

5. *Coordinate scheduling of in-state CPS technical training classes to maximize the use of available resources;*
6. *Establish quality-control relative to CSS check events, distribution programs, education and CPST instruction;*
7. *Expand partnerships to better work with hospitals on discharge policies, special needs and staff training;*
8. *Support statewide communication with CPSTs including the Tech Talk newsletter and by other means;*
9. *Establish standards of competency for those providing CPS programming.*

The Georgia CPS Advisory Board should include at least one member representing the interests of the following entities: local Sheriff's Departments, local Municipal Police Departments, Georgia State Patrol, Fire and Rescue Departments, EMS Agencies, local Health Departments/Advocates, hospitals, insurance industry, private/individual safety advocates and Child Fatality Review panel. There will also be an Executive Committee with permanent members: Director of GOHS, Director of GTIPI, Director of the DHR Injury Prevention Unit and Director of SAFE KIDS Georgia. T039199

The formation of the CPS Advisory Board represents an exciting opportunity to support CPS technicians throughout the state and provide enhanced service to parents to insure all children are riding in an appropriate safety restraint that is used correctly. If you are interested in receiving an application for Advisory Board membership representing any of the organizations noted, please contact me at 1-800-342-9819 or my e-mail at svd@uga.edu.

## PRIDE Teen Summit

Beth Bartlett, Program Specialist

Nearly 80 teens from around the state attended GTIPI's first annual Teen Summit on Traffic Safety at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on July 22-24, 2005. These young drivers were selected to form Georgia's *Driving Force*, a group of peer leaders who will provide traffic safety education and outreach in their local communities. T042395

At the Summit, members of the *Driving Force* learned presentation techniques, leadership skills, crash dynamics, guidelines for child seat safety, and Georgia traffic laws. They also became certified as Teen Instructors to assist with the *Georgia Teens Ride with P.R.I.D.E. (Parents Reducing Incidents of Driver Error)* program.

On Saturday, teens met with their Traffic Enforcement Networks to plan local activities for the upcoming



Traffic Safety Olympics

school year such as high school seat-belt checks, Ghost-Outs, sports tournaments, and social events with an emphasis on safety. They also compiled a list of recommendations to teens and parents on how to be safer drivers.

In addition to all this hard work, these teens still had plenty of time for fun and making new friends at a dance, movie night, recreational time, and the Traffic Safety Olympics (pictured).

Look for information about how you can recommend teens for the 2006 Summit in the next issue of Tech Talk. We welcome nominations of young leaders from your community.

## Hot Off The Press

### New GTIPI Training Calendar Available

Mary Ann Robinson, CPS Educator

Our new training calendar for Child Passenger Safety and PRIDE trainings is now available in print and on our website at [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org).

This year many of our Child Passenger Safety Technician classes will be split classes. There will be two days of instruction one week and the remaining two days will be taught the next week. This was done to accom-



modate the work schedule of our students.

The "Georgia Teens Ride with P.R.I.D.E." program will conduct regional trainings at locations throughout the state for new and recertifying instructors. Train-

ings will also be held monthly at the GTIPI training facility in Conyers.

Riding Safely in Child Care classes, Technician Association Meetings, and CPS Technician Certification Renewal Courses are also listed on this calendar. Occasionally, newly scheduled classes may be added to the website, so be sure to check for additions at [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org).

## Community Organizations – Possible Source of Funds

Marilu Montalvo, CPS Educator

One major concern voiced by technicians is how to gather resources for educational programs. Often all we have to do is look at the different organizations within our own communities. Following is a list of possible community organizations that may be very interested in saving the lives of children and adults through educational programs. All we might be required to

do is to present a briefing about CPS issues to potential partners. GTIPI is ready to help you achieve this task with our array of curricula available for presentations.

Some agencies in your community to consider are: Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, PTAs, Pilot Clubs, Faith-based Organizations, Community

Organizations, Women's Groups, Men's Groups, Civic Organizations, Local Utility Companies, Chambers of Commerce, Local Business Groups, Exchange Clubs, Hospital Foundations, elected officials, etc.

To check-out any of our presentations, please contact one of the CPST Training Coordinators at 800-342-9819 or via email at [gtipi@uga.edu](mailto:gtipi@uga.edu).

# New Seat with Anti-Rebound Bar For Children From 4 to 22 Pounds

Mary Ann Robinson, CPS Educator



**Note: This column is for information only and is not intended as an endorsement for any product. Descriptions in this article are those of the manufacturer.**

The Companion is a new rear-facing only infant seat manufactured by Britax. This new seat has True Side Impact Protection. The True Side Impact Protection head pad has adjustable, air-filled pockets that expand for a customized fit.

This seat is designed for children from 4 to 22 pounds. An optional Low Birth Weight Foam insert may be used to help obtain a snug fit for infants whose weight is less than 7 pounds. This insert costs \$6.00 and must be ordered from Britax. For low birth weight or premature babies, Britax recommends that the parent or caregiver consult with the



child's doctor before using this child restraint because some infants must be secured with a device that allows them to lie flat.

The owner's manual states that a child is too tall when the top of the head is above the top of the restraint or height exceeds 30 inches. This seat with the anti-rebound bar on the base helps to reduce rebound movement in the event of a crash.

Companion seats come with LATCH connectors and a LATCH storage compartment on the base. It also includes an angle recline adjuster to help achieve the perfect angle. When this seat is installed in a vehicle, the handle must be in the In-vehicle & Stationary Position. This seat was the winner of the 2004 JPMA Innovation Award. For more information on this seat, check the website at [www.britaxusa.com](http://www.britaxusa.com).



When this seat is installed in a vehicle, the handle needs to be in the In-vehicle & Stationary Position

## National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Program Challenges, Complaints and Appeals Process

Marilu Montalvo, CPS Educator

SAFE KIDS Worldwide has established a process to investigate situations where certified CPS technicians have given potentially dangerous information.

All appeals dealing with assertions regarding CPS technical skills will be reviewed by the National CPS Board and the NHTSA State CPS Training contact. No identifying information will be shared with the appeals group members.

Although you may file a written complaint about an instructor, test administration or the hands-on assessment process, SAFE KIDS will not accept appeals based on test questions or missed

deadlines. The complaint should identify the problem area and provide specific details and background information to support the concerns. T62810

All complaints and appeals must include clear supporting documentation and be postmarked within seven days for test administration-related incidents and 90 days for all other types of incidents being addressed. Complete and use the appeals form available in the Resources/Forms section of the web site as the cover sheet for your submission. Please be sure to include as much supplemental documentation as possible such as first-person summaries/

descriptions, pictures or other proof of poor skill/education.

SAFE KIDS will investigate and respond in writing to all complaints and appeals in as timely a manner as possible.

As appropriate, the National Child Passenger Safety Board and state CPS training contact will be consulted. Should this be the case, no identifying information will be provided to any member of the board of the CPS community. **All decisions by SAFE KIDS are final and will not be brought up for another appeal.**

*2005 CPS Classes*

*CPST 4-day Trainings*

- October 11-14 - Lowndes County
- November 1-4 - Whitfield County
- November 10,11 & 17,18 - Conyers
- December 13-16 - Cobb County

*Certification Renewal Course*

- December 6 - Dougherty County

*Technician Association Meeting*

- October 25 - Dougherty County
- November 29 - Hall County
- December 13 - Jasper County

*Riding Safely in Childcare*

- October 6 - Conyers/Rockdale County
- October 8 - Dublin/Laurens County
- October 25 - Albany/Dougherty County
- October 27 - Macon/Bibb County
- October 29 - Spanish - TBD
- November 12 - Gainesville/Hall County



**Find your technician number!**

If your technician identification number is hidden in this issue of Tech Talk, call us and you could win a backless booster seat. Every edition of Tech Talk will have three different technician identification numbers that have been selected randomly hidden in the newsletter. A hidden number must match your account number exactly (all digits together and in proper sequence) for you to be able to win. To report that you found your account number in this issue, please call us at 1-800-342-9819.

**Available CPS Curricula for Techs**

- 15-minute Awareness Presentation*
- 45-minute Awareness Presentation*
- 2-hour Awareness Class*
- 8-hour CPS Gateway Program*
- 2-hour Riding Safely in Child Care Class*

**Remember - We are on the Web!**  
**[www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org)**



1070 Culpepper Dr.  
Conyers, GA 30094

*For more certification information please visit*

*the Safe Kids Worldwide web site*  
<http://www.safekids.org/certification/>

Funded by a grant from the  
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***Thank You for the excellent response to the CPS Technician Survey!***

*GTIPI received over 550 survey responses. We appreciate the time and efforts taken to participate. Results of the survey will be published in the next issue of Tech Talk.*