



SEAT BELT USE

Southeast Technical College Policy STC 514

1. Purpose

Seat belts are essential for safety, significantly reducing the risk of severe injury or death in an accident. They keep occupants securely in place, preventing ejection or being thrown around inside the vehicle. Public employees must lead by example in maintaining a safe working environment.

2. General Statement of Policy

- a. **Mandatory Use:** All employees and students must use seat belts when operating or riding in any Southeast Technical College (STC) owned, rented, or leased vehicle equipped with seat belts. This also applies to private vehicles in accordance with South Dakota statute.
- b. **Children's Safety:** Children under 18 must use appropriate safety systems. Those under five years and 40 pounds must be in a car seat. Children over 40 pounds may use a seat belt.
- c. **Employee Responsibility:** All STC employees and their passengers must use seat belts in STC vehicles. This includes all motorized equipment with seat belts.
- d. **Enforcement:** Vehicle operators must ensure seat belts are present and usable. Unusable seat belts must be reported immediately. Operators should not drive if any passenger refuses to use a seat belt. Disciplinary action may be taken against non-compliant employees.
- e. **Exceptions:** Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis with a physician's statement of medical necessity, requested through the Office of the President or their designee.

3. Definitions

- a. **Operator:** The individual responsible for driving or controlling a vehicle.
- b. **STC Employee:** A person employed by or volunteering for STC.
- c. **Vehicle:** Motorized vehicles or equipment with seat belts, as required by federal safety regulations.

4. Dissemination of Policy and Training

The policy is located on STC's website under Consumer Information – Southeast Tech Policies

Legal References:

- SDCL
- 32-37 – Child passenger restraint system
- 32-38 – Safety belt system usage in passenger vehicles

Board Approved:

Policy		Board Action	(formerly 4159.2 & 5140.4)
adopted:	05-13-91	26143P	(formerly ECE/STC 07-01-25)
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