Ideas for PTA Groups to Promote Car Safety for Children

1. Encourage parents of school-age children to:
   a. Provide a booster seat and/or safety belt for each child on every ride.
   b. Show older children why they need to be buckled up with a video, such as "Keeping Children Safe in Crashes" or implement "Boosters Are For Big Kids" curriculum.
   c. Insist on a booster seat and/or safety belt for every child during field trips, Scout/athletic team transportation. It's the law!
   d. Work with after-school programs to restrain children in vehicles when they collect the children from schools or take them on field trips.
   e. Make sure safety belts and appropriate child restraints are used in buses and vans transporting children with special needs.
   f. Utilize sources of more information on proper child restraint devices, such as "The Perfect Gift: Your Child's Safety," available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
   g. Show an educational/motivational video, such as "Don't Risk Your Child's Life IX," or the "Boosters Are For Big Kids" DVD at a parent meeting.
2. Within the school program:
   a. For K-3, introduce "Boosters Are For Big Kids" curriculum in classroom, at parent meetings. Covers the 5-Step Test, reasons to use boosters, has homework and classroom activities. Available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
   b. For 4th and 5th grades, introduce "Belt Use Basics" which is part of the "Boosters Are For Big Kids" program.
   c. Include information on proper restraint use in the following programs:
      1) Driver education
      2) Family life electives
      3) Vocational programs for those who work with children
      4) Preschool centers attached to public/private schools
      5) Programs for pregnant teenagers
      6) Health education classes
   d. Do a survey of safety belt usage by observing activity near the school in the morning and afternoon and publicize it in the school newsletter. (Forms available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.)
   e. Sponsor a traffic safety poster and essay contest in the school. Make posters of students' homework color sheets and have local stores put them up for a week.
   f. Celebrate Safety Seat Checkup Week.
   g. Join SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. and help spread the word through business, medical, preschool, law enforcement, and other professional communities.

For more information:

***SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A.** www.carseat.org
800/745-SAFE (English), 800/747-SANO (Spanish)