



# B.E.S.T. FAQs

(Basic Education for Safe Travel)



## Hybrid education for child care providers & foster parents

### **Why is CARS changing?**

In short; to make things easier, remove barriers, and increase access to this required education across the state. This way, the curriculum stays updated and current through [Car Seat Basics](#), people seeking the training will likely be able to find a Facilitator easier/closer, and time spent can be used with demonstrations and hands-on activities relevant to that specific caregiver.

### **Will BEST cover the required Car Seat Training under [Minnesota Statute § 245A.18](#)?”**

We are pleased to inform you that BEST is fully equipped to provide the required car seat training for Foster Parents and Child Care licensure in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 245A.18. Our team has been working closely with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure a seamless transition from CARS to BEST.

### **How long can participants expect it to take to complete BEST?**

The online [Car Seat Basics](#) takes about 1 hour to complete with a 10 question quiz at the end. The in-person portion will take approximately 1 hour and function similar to a car seat checkup where the caregiver needs to demonstrate they can install their car seat with the facilitator's guidance. Facilitators have discretion on how to teach this in-person session, as long as they adhere to the guidelines set forth by the [Safe Kids CPST code of conduct](#).

### **Will there be a website or hub where we can find all the BEST information?**

The [Minnesota Safety Council](#) will house all information about BEST including where to locate a BEST Facilitator. Our goal is to make this information available to everyone.

### **Can I charge a fee for BEST, like I did for CARS?**

The MN Office of Traffic Safety is not setting any parameters on fees for this course. It can be offered for free or at a reasonable fee you set.

### **Who can be a BEST Facilitator?**

Any certified car seat technician proxy or instructor can obtain the information needed to become a BEST Facilitator. Connect with your CPS Liaison for more information.

### **How do I become a technician proxy so I can be a BEST Facilitator?**

Car Seat Technicians can become a proxy through the Safe Kids Worldwide application process. More information on what is needed to become a proxy can be found [online](#). There is a one-time fee of \$25 set by Safe Kids Worldwide to become a proxy. Your CPST recertification requirements will not change as a proxy.

### **What is my role as a BEST Facilitator (how is this different than a CARS Trainer)?**

Classroom instruction will be replaced by Car Seat Basics, curated by the National Safety Council. The BEST Facilitator will be able to focus more time and attention on hands-on instruction and work with participants on in-vehicle installations. Facilitators will be asked to evaluate each participant's ability to install car seats in a vehicle. It will be up to the Facilitator to determine location of hands-on activities as well as Facilitator-to-Participant ratio.



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### **What supplies are needed to be a BEST Facilitator?**

Very few supplies are needed to facilitate BEST. Attendees should provide the vehicle and seat(s) that will be used in their transport of children. If there are circumstances which prevent the caregiver from having this equipment it will be necessary to have a training vehicle seat/car seat(s) for caregivers to use during the evaluation. It is highly preferred that the hands-on portion be scheduled when the attendee has access to a vehicle.

### **What is the ratio for BEST attendees to Facilitators?**

This is at the discretion of the facilitator. BEST is formatted to be very interactive and working in the caregiver's vehicle. You will find 1:1 or very small groups might work best.

### **Do I have to do the hands-on portion 1:1 or in a group setting?**

Each BEST participant will need to demonstrate understanding of appropriate harness use and installation. It is up to the BEST Facilitator to determine how to effectively manage time. You may find caregivers with their own seats will work best 1:1 but those without seats using demo car seats you provide could be done in small groups.

### **Can BEST attendees come to a scheduled car seat checkup event or does it need to be a separate time?**

This is up to the facilitator's discretion. It is recommended that any BEST attendees coming to a checkup event have a set appointment time with the facilitator and that there are additional technicians to help other caregivers attending the checkup.

### **How do we hold BEST outdoors in the winter or poor weather conditions?**

It is not recommended to hold class in a dark, cold parking lot in the winter months—this isn't a good learning environment. Connect with your local fire department, law enforcement, ambulance garage or car dealership to see if you could partner with them to use garage space when you are holding your class. It can also be done in conjunction with a scheduled car seat checkup event. If you're struggling to find a location, reach out to your CPS Liaison for help brainstorming locations.

### **How do I enter BEST into Develop?**

BEST will not use Develop. Attendees will obtain credit by completing the online Car Seat Basics that produces a certificate and getting a signed evaluation sheet from an in-person BEST Facilitator.

### **When do I have to stop teaching CARS and have to offer BEST?**

CARS can still be taught until the end of 2024. In 2025, it will no longer be an option to offer CARS.



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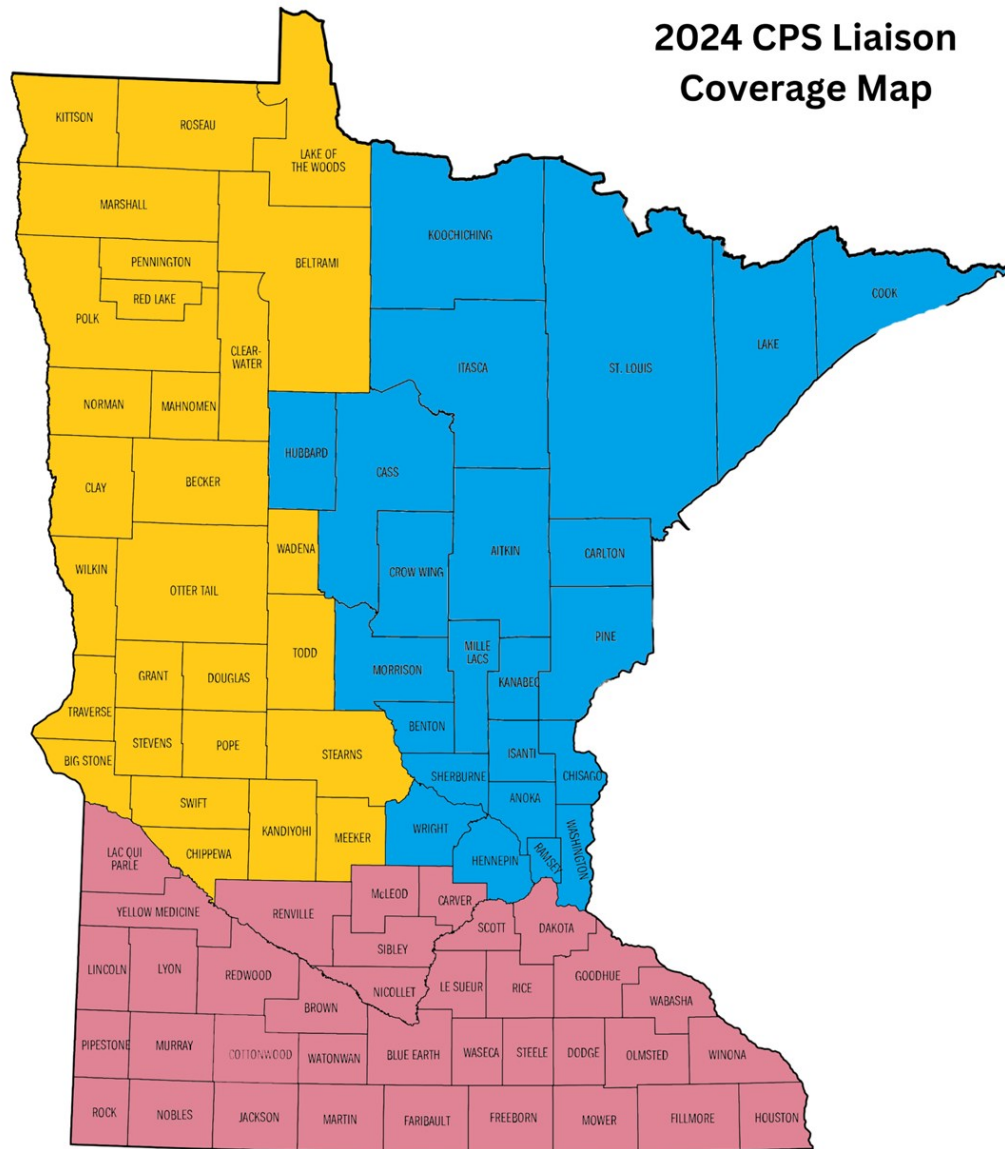
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Thank you to our BEST Subcommittee group that has put in many hours to help make the changes needed to this statewide training!

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