WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A child seat system for installation on a vehicle seat, the child seat system comprising:

a support base;

a child seat connectable to the support base, the child seat including a seat body having a seat portion and a back portion extending from the seat portion; and

a side impact protection (SIP) device arranged at the child seat or the support base, the SIP device being movable between a first position and a second position, the SIP device being arranged at the exterior of the child seat system in both the first position and the second position.

2. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device is positioned at an exterior of the seat body.

3. The child seat system according to claim 2, wherein the SIP device is positioned at the seat portion of the seat body.

4. The child seat system according to claim 2, wherein the SIP device is positioned at the back portion of the seat body.

5. The child seat system according to claim 4, wherein the back portion of the seat body includes an opening associated with a vehicle belt path, the SIP device being positioned directly adjacent to the opening in one of the first position and the second position.

6. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device is positioned at the support base.

7. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device is translatable between the first position and the second position.

8. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device is movable in a linear direction between the first position and the second position.

9. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device is rotatable between the first position and the second position.

10. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device is a first SIP device and the child seat system includes a second SIP device, the second SIP device being arranged at the child seat or the support base.

11. The child seat system according to claim 10, wherein the second SIP device is arranged at an exterior of the child seat system.

12. The child seat system according to claim 10, wherein the seat body includes a first side and an opposing second side, wherein the first SIP device is positioned on the first side, and the second SIP device is positioned on the second side.

13. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device further comprises:

a body;

an actuator; and

a lock nut operably coupled to the actuator.

14. The child seat system according to claim 13, further comprising a key plate arranged at the child seat or the support base, the lock nut being engageable with at least one lock recess of the key plate to retain the SIP device in the first position and the second position.

15. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device protrudes from the exterior of the child seat system a same distance in both the first position and the second position.

16. The child seat system according to claim 1, wherein the SIP device includes a belt guide, the belt guide being configured to detachably secure a vehicle belt to the SIP device.

17. The child seat system according to claim 16, wherein the belt guide is located proximate to an upper surface of the SIP device.

18. The child seat system according to claim 16, wherein the belt guide includes a first arm and a second arm, and a receiving channel for the vehicle belt defined between the first arm and the second arm and a surface of the SIP device.

19. The child seat system according to claim 16, wherein the belt guide includes a retaining member having a groove formed therein, and a receiving channel for the vehicle belt defined between the groove of the retaining member and a surface of the SIP device.

20. The child seat system according to claim 16, wherein when the vehicle belt is detachably secured to the belt guide, the SIP device applies a first force to the vehicle belt when the SIP device is in the first position, and the SIP device applies a second force to the vehicle belt when the SIP device is in the second position, the second force being greater than the first force.

21. A child seat system for installation on a vehicle seat, the child seat system comprising:

a support base;

a child seat connectable to the support base in a forward-facing position and a rearward-facing position; and

at least one side impact protection (SIP) device arranged at the child seat or the support base, wherein the at least one SIP device is arranged in a first configuration when the child seat

is in the forward-facing position, and the at least one SIP device is arranged in a second configuration when the child seat is in the rearward-facing position.

22. The child seat system of claim 89, wherein the at least one SIP device is arranged at the child seat.

23. The child seat system of claim 89, wherein the at least one SIP device includes a first SIP device and a second SIP device, the first SIP device having a first hardness and the second SIP device having a second hardness.

24. The child seat system of claim 91, wherein the child seat includes a headrest having a headrest side member, the first SIP device and the second SIP device being arranged at the headrest side member.

25. The child seat system of claim 89, wherein the at least one SIP device is arranged at the support base.

26. The child seat system of claim 89, wherein the child seat includes an engagement member operably coupled to the SIP device to transform the SIP device between the first configuration and the second configuration.

27. The child seat system of claim 94, wherein the engagement member is translatable in response to rotation of the child seat between the forward-facing position and the rearward-facing position.

28. The child seat system of claim 89, wherein the support base includes a base seat portion and a base back portion, and the at least one SIP device includes a first SIP device and a second SIP device, the first SIP device being arranged at the base seat portion and the second SIP device being arranged at the base back portion.

29. The child seat system of claim 96, wherein in the first configuration, the first SIP device is stowed and the second SIP device is extended and in the second configuration, the second SIP device is extended and the first SIP device is stowed.

30. The child seat system of claim 89, wherein in the first configuration the at least one SIP device is stowed and in the second configuration the at least one SIP device is extended.

31. The child seat system of claim 89, wherein in the first configuration the at least one SIP device is extended and in the second configuration the at least one SIP device is stowed.