



MONTANA ROUNABOUT



NEWS FROM TRAFFIC EDUCATION — MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

FALL 2018

GDL and Driver Education:

Driver education and teen crashes and traffic violations in the first two years of driving in a graduated licensing system

In Montana, we know that driver education paired with GDL is the best and safest approach to helping teens learn to drive. The evidence to support effective driver education includes a 2015 study of over 150,000 Nebraska teens. Researchers concluded that “teens in the driver education cohort had significantly fewer crashes and injury or fatal crashes” and “had significantly fewer traffic and alcohol-related violations.”

They also concluded that “driver education appears to reduce crashes and violations in a graduated licensing environment.” The following excerpt from the report describes the transition to unsupervised driving:

In the early months of unsupervised driving, the majority of teens exhibit good driving habits, however the study did find instances of texting behind the wheel, horseplay with passengers, and running red lights.

While a very small number of instances of deliberate risk-taking behavior were observed, the vast majority of “close calls” involved judgment errors that seemed to be indicative of inexperience and failure to anticipate changes in the traffic environment. A common scenario involved the teen braking hard after having initially failed to notice that traffic ahead was slowing or stopped.

Once teen drivers obtain their license to drive independently, the passenger make up shifts dramatically.

Driver education is clearly more than teaching to the test. It’s an opportunity for teens to learn and practice safe driving skills with dedicated teachers and then, with a parent, guardian or responsible adult, so when solo driving begins, a vehicle collision is less likely to occur.

From: *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, Volume 82, Sept. 2015, pp 45–52.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0001457515001943>

Plan ahead for Montana Teen Driver Safety Day!

Plan ahead to celebrate **National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 15-19** and Montana’s own **Teen Driver Safety Day, Tuesday, October 16**. Visit <http://opi.mt.gov/drivered> and check your email for teen driver safety activities to increase awareness in your school and community. Share your ideas with us, too!



Drowsy Driving and Teen Drivers

With so many early morning classes and activities, it’s no surprise that teens are driving sleep-deprived on their way to school. A recent study in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine* suggests that teen drivers who start class earlier in the morning are involved in significantly more motor vehicle crashes than peers with a later high school start time.

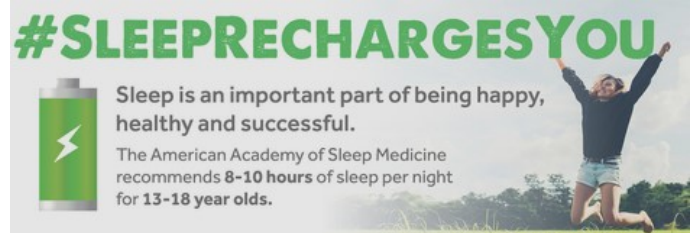
The results underscore the importance of the **Awake at the Wheel** campaign of the National Healthy Sleep Awareness Project. More information about this campaign can be found at <http://www.sleepeducation.org/healthysleep/awake-at-the-wheel>.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimates that drowsy driving may cause 328,000 motor vehicle collisions and 6,400 fatal crashes on U.S. roads each year. Previous data analysis by AAA also shows that the prevalence of drowsy driving crashes is highest among drivers between the ages of 16 and 24 years.

Driver educators can help teens drive rested by emphasizing the importance of sleep and making the connection between drowsy driving and the dangers of nodding off behind the wheel.

Another great resource is the **Sleep Recharges You** webpage that highlights the many health benefits of sleep: <http://www.sleepeducation.org/healthysleep/sleep-recharges-you-teen-sleep-duration>.

Like many teens, you may go through each day feeling like your batteries are running low. You need a long-lasting power boost to look, feel and perform your best. What you need is sleep. SLEEP IS YOUR POWER SOURCE!





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The **Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP)** is a partnership between the Motor Vehicle Division, Montana Department of Justice and the Montana Office of Public Instruction. During the 2017-2018 school year, **96%** of teens participating in driver education received a learner license and **59%** were waived on the road test. The August 2018 reimbursement of **\$110.63** per student helped offset an average per-student program cost of **\$458.96**.

During the 2017-2018 school year, **8,271** students completed driver education, which represents **68%** of eligible teens. A majority of Montana teens are learning to be safe and responsible drivers in state-approved driver education, but we still have a long way to go to increase opportunity and participation. **We are grateful to the 138 school districts across Montana for providing this essential driver education and safety training in our schools.**



IMPORTANT REMINDERS



TRAFFIC EDUCATION DATA & REPORTING SYSTEM (TEDRS) - STUDENT LIST

- Be sure to include ALL traffic education teachers on the student list who are providing instruction in the class — both classroom and driving.
- Confirm the **actual completion date** ONLY when the course is actually done. The **scheduled completion date** may change, so be sure to update it if you finish earlier or later. When you check the *Notice of Completion* and click SAVE, you will be locked out of the list and will need to contact OPI for assistance.
- Any teen under the age of 19 who resides in the school district, but may not be enrolled as a student, must be offered an equitable opportunity to register in and complete driver education. These students will not show up on the school's AIM list, so they can be added manually by clicking the *Add New Student* button.
- Review the online *Student List Users Guide* to learn and follow the steps to enter, update, and finalize student lists. As always, Fran and Patti are happy to help.

COOPERATIVE DRIVING TESTING PROGRAM (CDTP):

- The Learner License EXAM date on the **Driver License application** and the Learner License ISSUE date on the **Student List** must be the SAME date.
- Honor the three-day rule for submitting driver license applications AND the student list to the MVD after issuing learning licenses. If you need more time, contact your local MVD driver examiners to inform them of the delay.

THE MONTANA ROUNDBOUT is published annually in the fall for Montana schools with state-approved traffic education programs for young novice drivers and produced by the Traffic Education Office at the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Contact Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director (406) 444-4396 or Patti Borneman, Program Specialist. (406) 444-4432 with questions and assistance. Montana Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620. <http://opi.mt.gov>.

DATES & CONTACTS

TE01 District Application is due before **August 1** for fall programs **OR** before program begins.

TE03 Certification & TE04 Student List Enter and submit forms to the OPI using TEDRS at beginning and completion of each course.

TE06 Year-End Report is due before **July 10** for annual Traffic Education reimbursement paid in August for courses ending before June 30.

Contacts & Resources

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Montana Traffic Education Association—<http://MTEAonline.org>

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2019 TRAFFIC ED CONFERENCE in Butte—April 21-23.