



MONTANA ROUNDAABOUT



NEWS FROM TRAFFIC EDUCATION — MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

FALL 2017

Celebrate Smart Driving Choices

Montana Teen Driver Safety Day—Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Montana Teen Driver Safety Day is the third Tuesday in October during National Teen Driver Safety Week. Proclaimed by the Montana State Legislature in 2009 at the urging of students from Belt High School, its mission is to bring Montana teens, community leaders, educators, and parents together to prevent young driver crashes, the leading cause of death for teens.



Last year, the OPI joined with the Goldhahn family and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to highlight the importance of seat belts and the [#BuckleUpBlue4Lauryn](#) campaign. Pat Goldhahn spoke at more than 25 schools and gave out 90,000 blue ribbons last year. He also graciously spoke at the Montana Traffic Education Conference in April.

The campaign is making a difference in people's lives. Just this month, on September 7, three teens walked away from a rollover crash on a gravel road because they were buckled up. One of the three boys in the crash knew Lauryn Goldhahn, the

15-year-old who died from injuries she suffered in an August 29, 2016 crash.

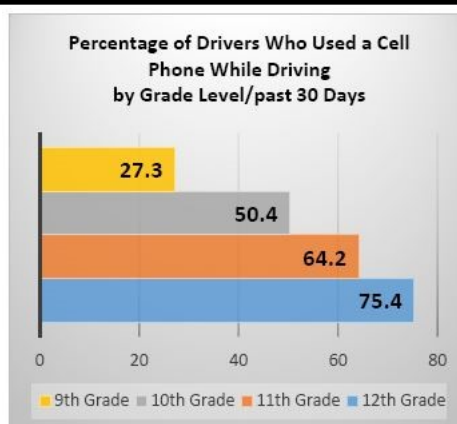
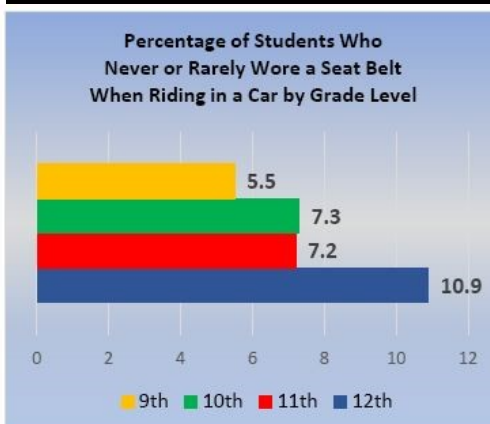
The [Choteau Acantha](#) reported, "The #buckleupblueforLauryn ribbon used to remind students to buckle up was on the steering wheel of the vehicle involved in the Sept. 7 accident, Isakson said. "I have always worn my seat belt," he said, "but the ribbon is a good reminder." <http://www.choteauacantha.com>, Sept. 13, 2017

This story and others like it can inspire the smart driving decisions that keep teens safe on the road as drivers and passengers. We will partner again with MDT and the Goldhahns to help remind teens to drive alert, focused and buckled up. This Montana Teen Driver Safety Day, let's celebrate the lifesaving choices teens make to practice safe driving, every time they drive.

Get a jump start on planning for Teen Driver Safety Day!

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Host lunchtime videos and get safe driving pledges.
- *Stay in Your Lane* distracted driving awareness activities.
- Morning class and sports announcements to promote safe driving habits.
- Positive messages on reader boards at your school, sports stadiums, and local businesses.
- Conduct seat belt and cell phone surveys to raise awareness.
- Hold contest to design a safe driving poster or social media meme.
- Chalk up the sidewalk with *Stay Alert, Arrive Alive* messages.
- Send flyers home with teens to encourage all family members to adopt smart safe driving habits.
- Invite a local resource expert to speak at an assembly about distracted driving.
- [TeenDriverSource.org](#) has great resources, including a list of activities that took place in 2016 for National Teen Driver Safety Week. Listed for Montana is the [#BuckleUpBlue4Lauryn](#) campaign.



From **Montana Students and Driving Behaviors** (find on **Resources** page at OPI Driver Education website), 2017 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Courtesy of YRBS Coordinator Susan Court, MT Office of Public Instruction.



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In Montana, **9,271** students at **137** high schools – **76%** of all eligible teens – completed driver education during the 2017 school year and **94%** passed the test and received a Learner License to begin GDL-supervised driving practice.

New Learner License Rules for Teen Drivers

The Traffic Education Learner License (TELL) is now a **Learner License** and allows parents/guardians and **other licensed adults authorized by the parent/legal guardian** to supervise a teen driver during Step One of the graduated licensing law (GDL). Visit the **OPI Driver Education** webpage to download a new *GDL Factsheet and Driving Log* and *Module 1 of the Teen Driver Curriculum*.

Vision Zero Traffic Safety Grants – Apply by 11/1/2017

Grants up to \$1,750 are available through FCCLA and applications are due November 1. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Ford Driving Skills and Montana Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) are promoting traffic safety by awarding grants to chapters who plan and carry out projects that help them and their peers make responsible driving decisions. For details, visit <http://mtfccla.org/vision-zero/>

The Office of Public Instruction launches New Website

The OPI began the new school year with a streamlined, redesigned and updated website that emphasizes the visitor and their information needs. With that in mind, the Traffic Education Office staff created pages and content for driver education teachers, administrators, and teens and their parents. Visit the new **Driver Education web pages** at <http://opi.mt.gov/DriverEd> or go to opi.mt.gov and search for Driver Education.

Contact Fran or Patti for information and assistance with traffic education forms and reports via the Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS). To receive important Traffic Education reminders and updates, sign up for OPI **Traffic Education E-News**: <http://opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>

THE MONTANA ROUNDBOUT is published in the spring and 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. Montana Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620. www.opi.mt.gov

CUT OUT & POST ...

THIS HANDY LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES, DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

TE01 Program Application is due **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 by June 30.

YOUR TE CONTACTS:

OPI Driver Education—NEW LINK!
<http://opi.mt.gov/DriverEd>

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