



MONTANA ROUNABOUT

News & updates for Traffic Education Programs from the
Traffic Education Office, Montana Office of Public Instruction



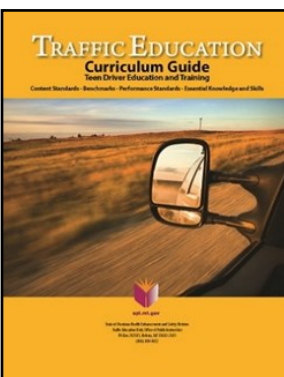
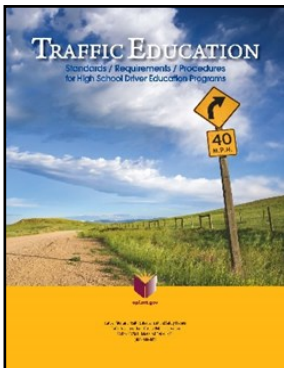
Back to (driving) school: Teens who skip driver ed have more crashes and convictions

Although vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for teens, fewer new drivers are participating in what used to be considered a rite of passage – driver education. State funding has declined over recent decades, leaving uneducated teen drivers vulnerable on America’s roads. In Montana, the funds reimbursed to schools to support driver education come from driver license fees. This funding is made possible through the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) – a partnership between the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

New research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reveals that teens who skip driver education are involved in more crashes and receive more traffic convictions compared to their peers who participated in traffic education. The study assessed examples of U.S. and Canadian driver education programs using a variety of evaluation methods including surveys, driver’s licensing tests, driver simulators, and a review of driving records. The results revealed that several key differences exist between teens who receive driver education and those who do not. Source: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, September 16, 2014. To see the full news release, go to: <http://newsroom.aaa.com/>

In Montana, **8,530** students at **138** high schools— **69%** of all eligible teens— completed driver education during the 2014 school year.

Best Practices for Traffic Education Programs



- Use the **Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS—“teeters”)** to manage your traffic education program.
- Participate in the **Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP)** to issue Traffic Education Learner License (TELL) permits so students can begin the required 50 hours of supervised driving practice.
- Integrate **Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)** requirements in your traffic education courses and set policies to decrease distractions, such as limiting the number of passengers during the first year a teen driver is driving solo.
- Keep handy and refer often to the **Office of Public Instruction’s (OPI) Traffic Education Standards/Requirements/Procedures** and the *Traffic Education Curriculum Guide*.
- Make sure you are receiving the **Teen Driver Safety E-News** to stay up to date on Traffic Education deadlines and events. To subscribe, go to: <http://opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/> or contact our office.

Download these documents from the OPI’s web site or request a printed copy from the Traffic Education Office.

Montana Teen Driver Safety Day is Tuesday, October 21, 2014

How is your school celebrating Teen Driver Safety Day? Let us know how your community encourages teens to always wear a seat belt, ride like a friend, and make good decisions while driving.

Consider organizing a Red Thumb Reminder event where younger students paint teen and adult thumbnails with red nail polish as reminders to not text while driving.

5 to Drive! Do you remember the five most important rules before hitting the road? The **5 to Drive** campaign encourages parents to talk with their teens about one safety topic each day during National Teen Driver Safety Week (October 19-25, 2014).

See page two for answers ...

THE MONTANA ROUNDABOUT

Published in the fall for Montana schools with state-approved traffic education programs for young novice drivers. The MONTANA ROUNDABOUT is produced by the Traffic Education Office at the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Written and edited by Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director and Patti Borneman, Program Specialist. (406) 444-4432. Montana Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620.



The 2015 Montana Traffic Education Association Conference will be in Great Falls, April 26-28.

Registration begins in March. Visit MTEAOnline.org for details and to register.

**5 to Drive**

1. Put away the cell phone.
2. Limit the number of passengers.
3. Drive the speed limit.
4. Drive unimpaired by alcohol or drugs.
5. Everyone is buckled up.

Campaign marketing materials courtesy of

**Frequently Asked Questions from Traffic Education Programs**

Q: When does the 6-month GDL clock start ticking?

A: The date the TEP (Traffic Education Permit) is issued, which is usually when the instructor begins driving with students. Six months from the TEP date is the earliest date drivers under 18 can obtain their restricted license.

Q: We've just hired a new traffic education instructor who will be giving the knowledge exam and issuing TELL permits. What's next?

A: When new traffic education instructors are hired, two forms must be sent to the Motor Vehicle Division/Department of Justice to officially certify the instructor for the CDTF: the *School District Intent to Participate in CDTF* and the *Instructor Compliance Affidavit*. Download these forms from the **Teaching Traffic Education** web page on the OPI's web site or contact the Traffic Education Office.

Q: What is the age requirement for administering the CDTF knowledge exam and issuing TELL permits to students?

A: All students must be at least 14.5 on or before the day they take the knowledge exam and receive a TELL permit.

Q: Can foreign exchange students take driver education and receive a TELL permit? What is required to do so?

R: Check the student's exchange program contract; driving may be excluded. They must meet the six-month GDL requirement, so the length of their stay is a consideration. The required documents for driving licensing will include "proof of authorized presence" in the United States.

Becoming a Traffic Education Instructor in Montana

Eight initial credits toward the 20-credit traffic education minor is all that is needed to begin teaching traffic education in Montana. That, and a current Montana educator license, a valid driver's license, and a good driving record.

Traffic education teachers are in demand in Montana. One way a school fills this gap is to encourage a currently employed teacher to get the training to qualify for traffic education approval from the OPI. Some school districts have supported K-12 teachers with tuition grants tied to agreements to teach several sessions of traffic education to offset repayment.



From May to early July, an educator can complete 8 credits of blended coursework offered online with only two weeks onsite at MSU-Northern in Havre. Instructors completing this program can receive approval from the OPI to teach traffic education as early as July 15. For details, contact Randy Bachmeier at MSU-N: (800) 662-6132 x3730. For a schedule of summer courses, visit: <http://www.msun.edu/distance/>.

Visit the OPI's Traffic Education web page, **Teaching Traffic Education**, to see what is required to become a state-approved teacher of traffic education in Montana: <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd> or call our office with questions.

TEDRS - Use your OPI Common Login



The Internet-based Traffic Education and Data Reporting System (TEDRS) is used by more than 90% of schools to enter Traffic Education district applications, student lists, and year-end reports. Superintendents, principals, district staff and instructors are authorized to use TEDRS to manage their traffic education programs and submit the required forms to the OPI and the MVD/DOJ (see sidebar).

Do you already access OPI's MAEFAIRS or Pupil Transportation using your OPI Common Login and password? You can use the same username and password to log into TEDRS once you are granted access. The Traffic Education Office provides ongoing training and troubleshooting, so please call for assistance.

Driver examiners also use TEDRS to verify traffic education completion when teens visit an exam station for their first-year restricted license. Driver examiners can access students lists statewide, so they can assist students who took driver's ed in a different part of the state. Examiners also use TEDRS to verify an instructor's CDTP certification status.

To access TEDRS or to request a new OPI Common Login, email the user's name, district, phone number, and email address to pborneman@mt.gov.

5 good reasons to use TEDRS for student lists

IMPORT students' names from AIM database: Students' names and birth dates can be imported from AIM, OPI's database of enrolled students, or added manually. TEDRS alphabetizes names and verifies birth dates for minimum age requirements.

ENSURE compliance and data accuracy. TEDRS streamlines the forms completion and submission process, and checks for errors and omissions.

PRINT traffic education learner licenses and road test score sheets: For districts participating in the Cooperative Driver Testing Program.

PRINT Certificates of Completion: For students who successfully complete traffic education.

SUBMIT forms electronically to the OPI. Save paper, postage and meet deadlines quickly. No need to mail forms to the OPI, but driver examiners may still require hardcopy delivery, along with other required documents.

Montana Common Core Standards and Traffic Education

What do the subjects of English, Math, Communications and Driver Education have in common? These areas of study intersect when students in driver education analyze crash causes and prevention or create a dynamic presentation on the dangers of distracted driving. Learning is enhanced, problem solving skills are developed, and valuable information is shared with others. This is common core: critical thinking, analysis, and the practical application of important concepts leading to deeper learning and real world skills.

To see how the Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS) can enhance your traffic education program, contact our office for traffic education research topics and examples tied to the MCCS for grades 9-12. Or visit the Montana Teen Driver Curriculum (Administration folder) on the OPI's Traffic Education web site.

Visit <http://opi.mt.gov/> to learn more about the Montana Common Core Standards for districts, teachers, families and school leaders.

CUT OUT & POST
THIS HANDY LIST OF
IMPORTANT DATES,
DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

TRAFFIC EDUCATION FORMS **PLEASE USE TEDRS**

TE01 Program Application

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

Due before July 10 for annual Traffic Education reimbursement payment in August for courses ending by June 30.

YOUR TE PROGRAM TEAM

We are here to help ...

OPI Traffic Education

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/>

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Montana Traffic Education Association

<http://www.MTEAonline.org>

Always buckle up ...
we want to see YOU again

Buckle Up Signs and Seat Belt Use Surveys



Montana law requires seat belt use for everyone on every trip, every time. More than 120 schools participated in the Buckle Up Signs for Montana Schools project last year to remind drivers at their school to “please buckle up so we can see you again.” Several schools also sponsored seat belt surveys to see how many people were wearing seat belts before the signs went up and after. The results were often quite sobering to the principals and teachers who didn’t realize that sometimes more than half of drivers were not buckling up.

Keep doing those surveys and spreading the message that seat belts save lives. Thank you for partnering with the OPI and other agencies and organizations to keep teen drivers safe. Visit the OPI’s Traffic Education web site to download survey forms and for the latest research and resources on traffic education and teen driver safety.

Susan Carney’s Arlee students point to one of their Buckle Up Signs.

GDL MADE SIMPLE Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) is evidence-based and reduces crash risk by gradually introducing young drivers to independent driving, and restricting passengers and night driving.

- **TELL/Learner’s Permit** – requires 50 hours of supervised practice with 10 hours at night for a minimum of six months, and no alcohol, drug or traffic citations.
- **GDL-Restricted License** – restrictions include curfew and passenger limits (*see graphic at right*).
- **Full Driver’s License** – after one year on the restricted license.



opi.mt.gov

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