



# MONTANA ROUNABOUT



NEWS FROM THE TRAFFIC EDUCATION OFFICE—MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Fall 2015

## Your Parent Meeting What if just one parent comes?

**W**e work to improve student attendance and participation in schools, but increasing parent engagement is another challenge. School districts that schedule mandatory parent meetings for driver education ensure that families have important information about expectations, drive schedules, attendance, and Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). Here are some strategies schools use to reach 100% parent participation for driver education:



- One parent and teen must attend together to be officially enrolled in driver education. Two parent meetings scheduled – one early and one late in the day. Those who miss the meeting contact the teacher and meet with him individually.
- Mandatory parent meetings are one hour long. Parent and teen must meet with the teacher after the first day of class if they miss the meeting.
- Notice of required parent meeting is sent three weeks ahead in Chinook and Harlem.
- Communicate and build community and school board support for required attendance at parent meetings.

Don't forget  
parents,  
evening!

For more than 20 years schools have scheduled parent meetings for driver education and it's been an OPI requirement since 2012. Driving skills improve through the GDL partnership with driver education and parent-supervised driving practice. Working together to buckle up and focus on safe driving, we can reduce young driver crashes.

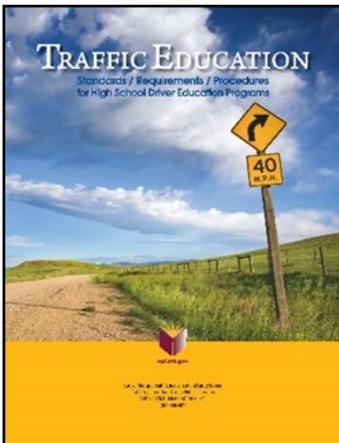
## More than half of Montana teen drivers report they text while driving. (YRBS 2015)



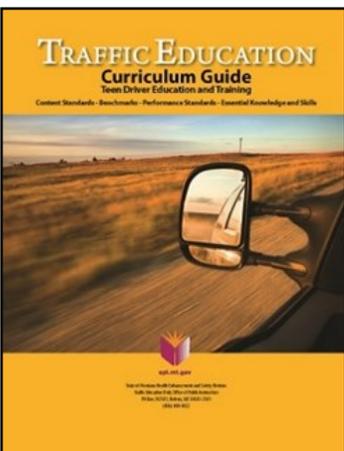
Download the pledge to **Commit to Distraction-free Driving** at [Distraction.gov](http://Distraction.gov).

## THE MONTANA ROUNDABOUT

Published in the spring and 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. [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov)



**TRAFFIC EDUCATION:**  
*Standards, Requirements & Procedures for High School Driver Education Programs*



**TRAFFIC EDUCATION:**  
*Curriculum Guide—Teen Driver Education and Training*

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

## Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP)

*Updated CDTP tests are available at driver exam stations. Use the overlays you already have to check answers. **OVERLAY CORRECTION NEEDED: CDTP Test #3, question 33: The correct answer is D. The overlay is C which is incorrect. Please punch out D and cover the incorrect answer with tape.***

The CDTP rules have not changed since 1995. In 2012 when we began student list reporting via the OPI's Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS), the way we record CDTP and "non-CDTP" students *has* changed. You no longer need to split these students into two groups on two different TE04 forms. Because driver examiners want to make sure teens are old enough to take the driver license knowledge exam, we can monitor and record this information on one student list.

When 14.5-year-old students are eligible to take driver education, they must also be 14.5 to take the driver license knowledge exam and road test. If a student is not old enough to take the exam, the message below will appear in TEDRS when the test date is entered on the form. They will need to take the test on or after the date they turn 14.5 years old.

**\*\*\* Students must be at least 14.5 years old to be issued a TELL.**

To avoid this possible conflict with the DOJ age rule, many schools enroll oldest students first and other districts require students to be age 14.5 before enrolling.

School district participation in the CDTP makes possible traffic education reimbursement to schools that comes from a percentage of driver license fees. Montana's Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) is a successful partnership with districts, teachers, and Motor Vehicle Division driver examiners.

## Driver Education – Good News!

In Montana, **8,630** students at **138** high schools – **73%** of all eligible teens – completed driver education during the 2015 school year and **90%** earned a Traffic Education Learner License to begin GDL supervised practice driving with their parents.

Recent Nebraska research finds that teens taking driver education had significantly fewer injury or fatal crashes, and fewer traffic and alcohol-related violations. Driver education appears to make a difference in teen traffic outcomes at an age when risk is highest. *Duane Shell et al., Accident Analysis and Prevention, 2015* (<http://tinyurl.com/o45xsum>)

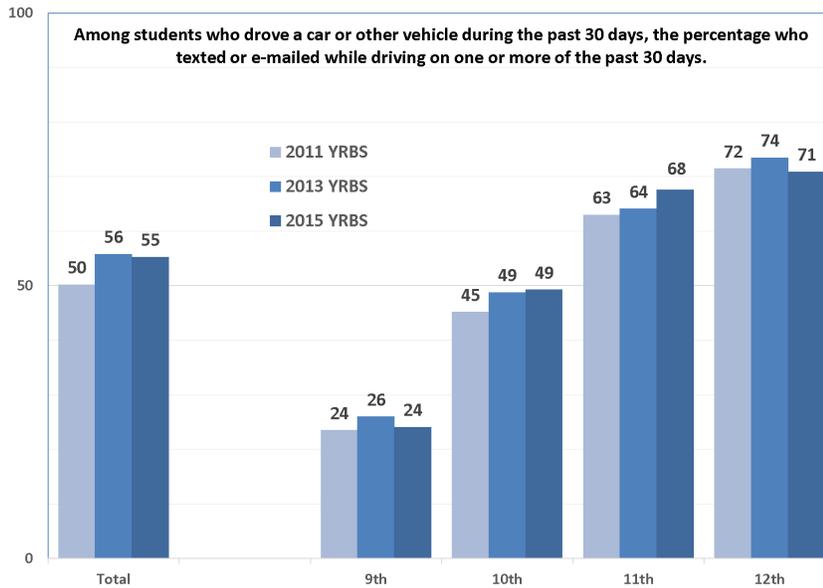
### GDL—THREE SIMPLE STEPS

1. Traffic Education Learner's License (TELL) – requires **50 hours of supervised practice with 10 hours at night** for a minimum of **6 months**, and no alcohol, drug or traffic citations.
2. One-Year Restricted License – Allows **solo driving**; restrictions include curfew and limiting passengers.
3. Full Driver's License – After **one year** on the restricted license.

Download the GDL Parents Fact Sheet and Teen Driver Log:  
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>

## Texting While Driving

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)



Montana 2015 YRBS Unintentional Injury data show 51.1% of high school students always wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else. Of Montana high school students who drive, 58.2% always wore a seat belt when driving a car. Find more survey results at <http://opi.mt.gov/Reports&Data/YRBS.html>.

## Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS)



The Internet-based **Traffic Education and Data Reporting System (TEDRS)** is used by almost all Montana school districts 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 reporting and submit the required forms to the OPI and the Motor Vehicle Division/DOJ.

### TO GET THE MOST OUT OF TEDRS, PLEASE READ:

- If you are having trouble printing in TEDRS, you may be using a browser other than Internet Explorer. If you are using Firefox, Chrome or Safari, you need to enable “popups” to view and print pdf versions of TEDRS forms.
- There is no need to send the OPI a printed copy of forms filled out in TEDRS.
- Need a new password? Go to the log in screen, click on “Forgot my password” and follow the instructions. If your email address has changed, let us know. Your username and email address are linked together to help you obtain a new password every 60 days.
- Your student list isn’t complete and submitted to the OPI until the four steps all turn from red to green at the top of the student list in TEDRS:

**1. Input Student List | 2. Issue TE Learner Permits | 3. Input Completion Dates | 4. Confirm Final Student List**

The Traffic Education Office provides ongoing training and troubleshooting, so please call or e-mail us for assistance. Call: (406) 444-4432 or email: [pborneman@mt.gov](mailto:pborneman@mt.gov).

**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/>

**FRAN PENNER-RAY**  
(406) 444-4396  
[fpenner-ray@mt.gov](mailto:fpenner-ray@mt.gov)

**PATTI BORNEMAN**  
(406) 444-4432  
[pborneman@mt.gov](mailto:pborneman@mt.gov)

**DOJ/Motor Vehicle Division**  
<https://dojmt.gov/driving/>

**TAMMY STEFANIK**  
(406) 444-1779  
[tstefanik@mt.gov](mailto:tstefanik@mt.gov)

**Montana State University-**  
**Northern at Havre**  
<http://www.msun.edu/distance>

**RANDY BACHMEIER**  
(800) 662-6132 x3730  
[rbachmeier@msu.edu](mailto:rbachmeier@msu.edu)



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

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



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 Montana Office of Public Instruction  
 PO Box 202501  
 Helena, MT 59620

[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

## Montana Teen Driver Safety Day is Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Make plans for:

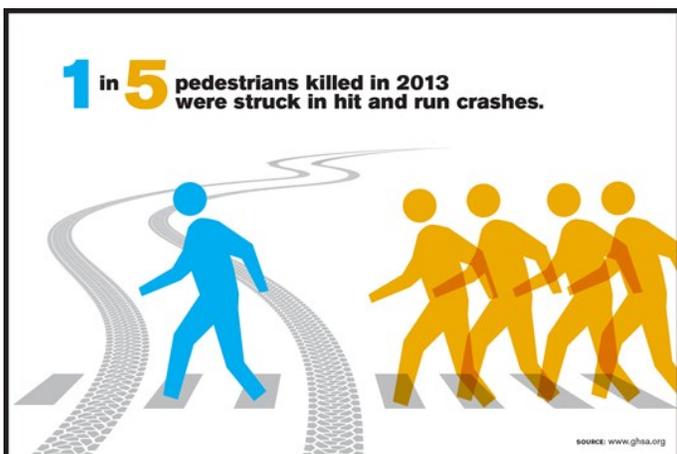
- Seat Belt Use surveys
- Safe Driving pledges
- Hallway Highway activities
- Morning announcements
- Reader board messages
- Safe driving poster contests for sports events

MORE IDEAS TO COME!

## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR TRAFFIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **TE01 DISTRICT APPLICATIONS DUE BEFORE PROGRAM BEGINS:** Classes ending by June 30, 2016, submit 2016 TE01 District Application. Summer 2016 classes that end after July 1, submit 2017 TE01 District Application.
- **TE03/04 STUDENT LISTS:** Enter and submit using TEDRS\* at **beginning and completion** of each course.
- **TE06 YEAR-END REPORT DUE BEFORE JULY 10** to receive your reimbursement in August for traffic education programs ending by June 30.

\* **Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS)** - If you are **not** currently using TEDRS, contact the Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432.



**Everyone is a Pedestrian.** With kids going to back to school now, we all need to be more aware of people walking and riding bicycles and sharing the road with vehicles. There are excellent resources at this website: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/everyoneisapedestrian/index.html>.



## Montana Traffic Education Association

A resource for teachers, administrators and traffic safety professionals and partners.

The OPI Traffic Education Office partners with MTEA throughout the year to guide professional development opportunities for Montana's traffic educators.

- Join us at the 2016 spring conference - date/location TBD. First-time attendees can put their names in a drawing for one of three \$150 David Huff Memorial Scholarships.
- Become a member or recruit a new member.
- Visit [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) to read MTEA News.
- MTEA has a Facebook page! Search for "Montana Traffic Education Association"

