



MONTANA ROUNDAABOUT



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

FALL 2016

Click into Safety

“Neither occupant was wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.”

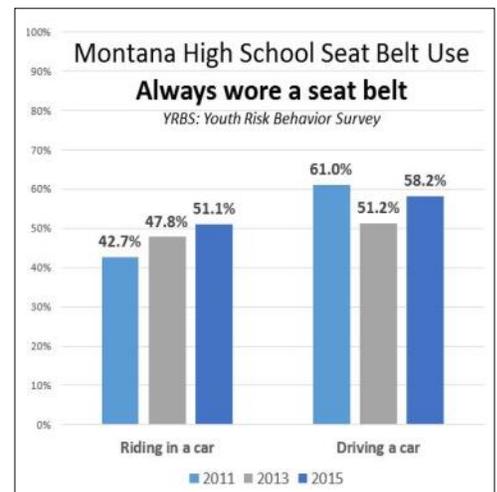
How many times do we read or hear this in news reports about lives lost in vehicle crashes? The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) reports that **144** people have already died on Montana roads as of 9/14/16. Many of these fatalities might have been prevented if the occupants were wearing their seat belts.

More teen drivers and passengers are buckling up, as shown by the graph below, but the numbers of people driving and riding unrestrained in vehicles is still too high. A [Billings Gazette](#) story in May 2016 reported: “In 2015 in Montana, about 70 percent of the fatalities in automobiles equipped with seat belts involved the victims either not wearing seat belts or not wearing them properly.”

Driving inexperience, distractions, speeding, and not buckling up are major factors contributing to teen crashes. So how can we, as traffic educators and safety professionals, help teens gain the experience and good judgment they need to make smart decisions every time they drive?

Driver education is an important first step. Along with GDL practice and positive peer-to-peer safety messages we can help teens become competent, confident and safe drivers.

Tuesday, October 18 is Montana Teen Driver Safety Day, a special day to highlight safe driving during National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 16-22. See the back of this newsletter and download the OPI’s [Ideas and Resources](#) handout for ways to celebrate this important day. Join us in October and year round to help teens buckle up, drive alert, and stay safe.



plan2live.mt.gov



What is plan2live? MDT’s campaign to raise awareness about seat belts, DUI and distractions. Listen to real survivors, watch entertaining *Mythcrashers* videos, learn about peer-to-peer traffic safety campaigns, and check out reasons to wear a seat belt and stay in your lane.

WHY WEAR A SEAT BELT?
HERE ARE **10 REASONS**
YOU HAVEN'T CONSIDERED.

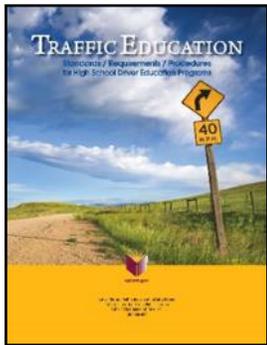
See all 10 reasons at: <http://plan2live.mt.gov/ten-reasons.shtml>

9. ROLLOVER? ROLL WITH IT. In a rollover crash, you’re 12 times more likely to be ejected if you’re not wearing a seat belt. People who are ejected in a rollover are five times more likely to die. Add it up and you see why your best chance of surviving a rollover is to wear a seat belt.

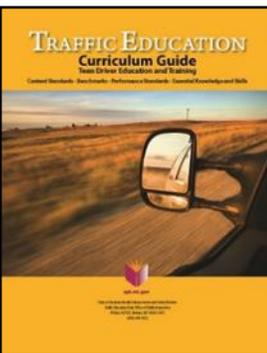
In Montana, **8,476** students at **132** high schools—**69%** of all eligible teens—completed driver education during the 2016 school year and **86%** earned a Traffic Education Learner License to begin GDL supervised practice with their parents.

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



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.

State Farm Receives MTEA Award

Every year the Montana Traffic Education Association (MTEA) honors a company or individual who has gone the distance to support traffic education in Montana. This year, the **State Farm Insurance Company** received the **Contributor of the Year** award at the Montana Traffic Education Conference in Billings.

A longtime partner of the OPI and the MTEA, State Farm was recognized "for sustained support for teen drivers through peer-to-peer traffic safety campaigns, Montana DRIVE Teen Workshops, and exceptional research and resources contributing to the practice of driver education." State Farm has provided funding for educational resources for traffic education and donated vehicles to the OPI's Montana DRIVE Program.

The OPI is especially grateful for State Farm's annual grant that has been received since 2009 providing a \$200 Montana DRIVE teen workshop scholarship to teen drivers who apply. This brings the cost of the one-day workshop to \$85, making it possible for up to 36 teens each summer to benefit from advanced driving training on the track in Lewistown.



State Farm is a leader in teen driver safety with peer-to-peer traffic safety campaigns, like their #DRIVE2N2 campaign that reminds drivers to keep two hands on the wheel and two eyes on the road.

For more information, visit teendriving.statefarm.com

Funding Available to Schools for Teen Peer-to-Peer Traffic Safety

MDT continues to partner with the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) to promote



Teen Traffic Safety. FCCLA's Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety (FACTS) program is a national peer education program through which students strive to save lives by educating youth and their community about traffic safety.

MDT is offering grants (up to \$1,000) to students who want to promote teen traffic safety in their schools. Topics can include increasing seat belt use; reducing speeding; reducing distracted driving; and reducing other behaviors by teen drivers that lead to injuries and fatalities.

Applicants will determine the methods of educating their peers on traffic safety issues. This may include social media campaigns, in-school contests (i.e., video messaging contest, poster contest), flyers, etc. School groups will be given guidance on how to implement a successful traffic safety peer-to-peer program.

School districts that have participated in this program include Forsyth, Plevna, Sunburst, Three Forks, and Fairview.

This grant program provides reimbursement for project expenses and applications are accepted year-round. For details, visit: <http://plan2live.mt.gov/teen-challenge.shtml>.

NOYS: Seat Belts Save Challenge

The fall 2016 **National Seat Belts Save Challenge** is now underway. **Register by October 15.**

This can be a fun way to spread the word about a serious subject and win prizes for your school. Participants who approach the challenge in a creative and engaging way will reach their peers with these important messages.



Prizes will be awarded to the schools that demonstrate the highest seat belt use rate, the greatest increase in seat belt use, and the best overall education campaign.

Registration opens 9/1/16 and closes on 10/15/16. Register at <https://noys.org/about-us/our-programs/seat-belts-save/>.



Get the most out of TEDRS! Your questions answered...



The Office of Public Instruction's **Traffic Education and Data Reporting System (TEDRS)** is used by Montana school districts to manage their traffic education reporting requirements. District applications, student lists, and year-end reports can be entered and submitted online. 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 Department of Justice/Motor Vehicle Division (DOJ/MVD) exam stations.

Use the Student List in TEDRS to print Traffic Education Learner Licenses, CDTP Road Test forms and Certificates of Completion. Need to verify if a student passed driver ed? Use the Student Search in Reports where you can also print a Certificate of Completion.

Frequently Answered Inquiries about TEDRS:

- **I clicked "print" and nothing happened.** You need to **enable popups** in your browser if you are not using Internet Explorer. When you are using Firefox, Chrome or Safari, you will need to enable "popups" to view and print pdf versions of TEDRS forms.
- **I can't log into TEDRS. What's my password?** Your TEDRS password lasts only 60 days so you likely need to update it. **You control your TEDRS password.** Go to the login 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. **Log into TEDRS from the Traffic Ed webpage. CUT OUT AND POST THIS HANDY LIST.**
- **When do I complete the student list?** The student list is used by OPI for reimbursement in August, and it's also used by the MVD to verify student completion of driver ed and knowledge and road tests waivers. **When you have checked all certifications and saved the form, the steps at the top of the form turn from red to green and the form is submitted to the OPI electronically.**

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

Cooperative Driver Testing Program

In 2016, 128 school districts participated in the **Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP)**, issuing Traffic Education Learner Licenses (TELL) and reducing by nearly 7,800 the number of teen drivers waiting to take the knowledge exam at driver exam stations across the state. Teens were also able to start driving practice sooner with their parents or guardians, gaining valuable experience behind the wheel before receiving their first solo-driving license.

Age 14.5 is when teen drivers can take the knowledge exam and get a TELL permit. This is a DOJ rule. OPI's rule allows students to take driver education if they will be age 14.5 on or before the LAST day of the driver education class. When you have students close to this age, make sure they are already 14.5 before they take the exam and get a TELL.

Submit the TE03/04 Student List **twice** to the MVD Exam Station. First, when TELL permits are issued (within **3 days of the TELL date**) with all driver license forms and exam scores; then within 10-14 days after the TE class is completed with the CDTP road test forms.

To **review CDTP** requirements and procedures, visit the Traffic Education webpage (<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>), click on **Teaching Traffic Education**, scroll down to the CDTP section and download the *CDTP Manual* or *Quick Reference Guide*.

CDTP questions? Contact Tammy Stefanik by email tstefanik@mt.gov or 406-444-1779.



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 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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<http://www.MTEAonline.org>

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



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2017 MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION SPRING CONFERENCE!
April 23-25 in Great Falls — Visit MTEAonline.org and find MTEA on Facebook.





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CELEBRATE MONTANA TEEN DRIVER SAFETY DAY!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016

Celebrate safe teen driving with peer-to-peer activities that bring together students, teachers, families, and communities. Montana Teen Driver Safety Day is always the third Tuesday in October. It was designated by the Montana State Legislature in 2009 to “increase public awareness and promote teen driver safety.” (MCA 1-1-229)

Celebrating Montana Teen Driver Safety Day?

- SHARE your activities and outreach activities on the MTEA Facebook page (search for *Montana Traffic Education Association*).
- SEND an email to Traffic Education Director Fran Penner-Ray at fpenner-ray@mt.gov.
- CALL the Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432.

We want to recognize the activities and celebrations that take place this year (or in past years). Please let us know!

DOWNLOAD the OPI’s [Ideas and Resources](#) **handout** for safety messages and ways to help teens develop safe driving habits and encourage their friends to drive safely, too.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Host lunchtime videos and encourage safe driving pledges.
- **Stay in Your Lane** distracted driving awareness activities.
- Morning announcements encouraging 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.
- Contest to design a safe driving poster or social media meme.
- Chalk up the sidewalk with “stay alert, arrive alive” messages.