

MINNESOTA PARENT DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS



CONTENT AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Minnesota Parent Driver Education Programs, Content and Discussion Guide

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What Experts Are Saying About Parent Involvement

- Experts on young driver behavior are in substantial agreement that more effective parental involvement in mentoring novice drivers holds significant promise for further reducing young driver crashes.

Source: Journal of Safety Research 34(1), (2003), 107-115

- Understanding the risks associated with teen driving as well as appreciating the complexity of state laws governing novice drivers can be an eye-opening experience for a parent. Creating a greater awareness and understanding of policies such as GDL laws will go a long way in assisting parents to help their children become safer drivers.

Source: Protecting Teen Drivers, A Guidebook for State Highway Safety Offices, (2010)

- Parent - Teen Interactions May Cut Teen Crash Risk In Half:

Two new studies reveal that teen crashes and risky driving behaviors such as cell phone use, failure to wear seat belts, and drinking and driving are strongly linked with the way teens and parents communicate and approach rules about safety. The results of the studies by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and State Farm® were published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

The first study shows that teens who said their parents set clear rules, paid attention to where they were going and whom they were with, and did so in a supportive way were:

- half as likely to crash
- twice as likely to wear seat belts
- 71 percent less likely to drive while intoxicated
- 30 percent less likely to use a cell phone while driving

These findings are compared to teens who said their parents were less involved.

Source <http://multivu.prnewswire.com/mnr/chop/39673/>

- Over the last decade, evidence-based strategies to successfully increase parent involvement in young driver safety have been identified, including to: (a) target parents in programmatic efforts, (b) promote high initial parent expectations for young driver safety, and (c) expose parents to goal-oriented persuasion.

Source: Simons-Morton & Hartos, 2002)

- Parents' Role in Teen Driving Education Making A Difference Outside the Classroom:

Teen drivers' parents attending Connecticut's new two-hour required driver training session for parents reported the program as overwhelmingly beneficial and has led them to adopt new safety measures with their young drivers. Parents overwhelmingly agreed with statements that: training helped their role as a parent of teen driver (85%); they approved of the requirement (83%) and they would recommend the class to other parents (82%). Parents also reported that overall the course was excellent or good 86% of the time and that the training will help to prevent teen crashes (71%).

Source: <http://www.ct.gov/dmv/parentsession>

Minnesota Parent Driver Education Programs

Primary Goal: Reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths involving novice teen drivers by enhancing parent awareness of teen driver safety issues by implementing a parent education module in novice driver education programs across the State.

Objectives:

1. Increase parent awareness of teen driving risks and laws.
2. Increase awareness of the important role parents play in influencing their children to drive safely.
3. Provide resources for parents to enhance their ability to fulfill their role.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Outline:

1. Provide information on **teen driving risks** through a presentation with an “emotional appeal” and discussion that engages parents and enhances interest.
 - Local law enforcement and emergency medical services should participate in program planning and implementation.
 - It’s important to have law enforcement participation to explain laws and answer questions.
 - The State Patrol “Young Forever” (aka, How to Save a Life), video and discussion program, or similar interactive local enforcement program capable of reaching parents with an “emotional appeal” on teen driving risks and the important role parents play in developing a safer teen driver, should be a primary component of this initiative.
2. Provide useful information on **teen driving laws** through presentations and discussions that engage parents’ interest.
 - Participants should be informed on **why** the teen driving laws were implemented, their shortcomings (not always best practice), and encourage parents to establish clear and reasonable boundaries for their teen drivers to reduce crash risks.
 - Parental control and making decisions that prioritize **safety over convenience** should be emphasized.
3. Encourage parents to discuss family driving rules with their teen.
 - Include a plan to allow more driving privileges when safe driving over several months and adherence to driving responsibilities are demonstrated.
 - The importance of **following through with consequences** for violating family driving rules must be emphasized.
4. Utilize a pre- and post-class parent awareness survey to measure the immediate impact of the program. The survey evaluates changes in parental perceptions, confidence, and knowledge by administration of the survey immediately prior to and immediately after the class.

(Optional) Re-administer the awareness survey to parents six to twelve months after the class to measure the long-term impact of the program. This may be done by asking parents to provide their contact information, (e-mail addresses, etc.) at the start of the class and inform parents that they will be contacted in six to twelve months to complete a follow-up survey.
5. Administer a class evaluation form to obtain parent feedback on the content and value of the program.

Objective Details:

Objective #1: Increase parental awareness of teen driving risks and laws.

Include the State Patrol “Young Forever” (aka, How to Save a Life), Video/Discussion or similar program capable of reaching parents with an “emotional appeal” on the risks of teen driving and their important role in developing a safer teen driver.

Risks:

Provide local, regional, state and national data on:

- Periods of greatest risk; (first 6-12 months after licensure)
- Nighttime; (9 pm – 3 a.m.)
- Safety Belt Use; (teens are less likely to buckle up than other age groups)
- Distractions; (passengers, electronics, etc.)
- Risk Taking Behaviors, Peer influences, Invincibility, Brain Development; (speeding, aggressive driving, etc.)
- While risky behavior does increase the chances of a crash, teens who are not risk-takers and who are responsible, smart, “good” kids make mistakes and errors in judgment while driving too.
- Impairment from Alcohol and Other Drugs;
- Drowsy driving;

Laws:

Explain the laws and the reasons why they exist; (relate to risks, crash data, brain development, etc.)

Explain that some laws are not “best practices” and are just the minimum standard in regard to safety.

Encourage parents to establish more stringent limitations and use a parent/teen driving contract before their teen gets a license. Emphasize making decisions with safety as the priority over convenience.

- Night time limitations
- Passenger limitations
- Cell phone use
- Texting/Internet access
- Careless/reckless driving
- Not-a-Drop (Zero Alcohol Tolerance)
- DWI
- Insurance (How driving behaviors – tickets, crash involvement, etc. – impact costs.)
- Legal responsibilities and consequences (Who’s responsible when something bad happens?)

Suggested presenters:

- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Services

Estimated total time for Objective One: 1 hr.

Objective Details:

Objective #2: Increase awareness of the important role parents play in influencing their children to drive safely.

- Driver education supplements what the parent is teaching their child, not the other way around.
- Importance of providing many hours of supervised driving experience during the permit phase.
- Parents can control when their teen drives, where they can go, and more.
- Encourage parent/teen discussion and using a driving contract.
- Parents can withdraw consent for their child to drive just by filling out a form from Driver and Vehicle Services. This can also be used to take a teen off an insurance policy, saving money.(See Form #PS33061)
- Importance of establishing fair driving rules that reduce risk exposure, granting additional privileges as experience is gained and responsibilities are proven.
- Importance of following through with consequences when problems are identified.

Suggested presenters:

- Public Health Educator
- School Counselor
- Social Worker
- TZD Safe Roads Coalition
- Parent, Family/Friend of Victim, Crash Survivor

Program Objective #3: Provide resources for parents to enhance their ability to fulfill their role.

- Review available resources and useful tips. See list of printed resources below.

Suggested presenters:

- Driver Educator
- Public Health Educator
- School Counselor
- Social Worker
- TZD Safe Roads Coalition
- Parent

Estimated total time for Objectives Two and Three: 15 minutes.

Measuring Impact and Evaluation:

The impact and evaluation of parent driver education programs may be measured through:

1. Attendance numbers: *Participation Measure*
2. Pre/post event parent survey: *Immediate Impact Measure* (Appendix A)
Survey components:
 - Parent perception of risks to teen drivers*
 - Parent confidence in knowledge of laws
 - Parent knowledge of laws
 - View of parent role
3. Follow up parent survey conducted 6 months -1 year after class participation: (optional) *Long-term Impact Measure*
 - Parent perception of risks to teen drivers
 - Parent confidence of knowledge of laws
 - Parent knowledge of laws
 - View of parent role
4. Extended (3 to 5 years) data evaluation: (optional) *Outcome Evaluation*
 - Changes in teen involvement in citations, crashes, injuries, and fatalities

Resources and Materials:*

These resource materials can be provided to aid parents in their role of developing a safe driver.

- Teen Driver Road Rules; Minnesota Laws for Newly Licensed Teen Drivers (DPS Item # PI 024)
Source: www.dps.state.mn.us/ots/ Resource Catalog
- Teens Behind the Wheel; A Roadmap for Parents (DPS Item # PI 025)
Source: www.dps.state.mn.us/ots/ Resource Catalog
- Teen Driver Crash Risk Factors (Appendix D)
- Helping Your Teen Become a Smart Driver (Appendix E)
- Shoulder to Shoulder, Positive Parenting Tips (Appendix F)
- Parents, Expect Resistance (Appendix G)
- Supervised Driving Log (Appendix H) Alternate Source: www.dps.state.mn.us/ots/teens
- Sample Insurance Costs (Appendix I)
- Parent/Teen Driving Contract Source: www.dps.state.mn.us/ots/teens
- Withdrawal of Parental Consent (DPS Form #PS33061) Source: www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs
- Other materials or forms the driver educator may want to include

Minnesota State Patrol Young Forever Program: A realistic educational program by the Minnesota State Patrol. The program is provided free of charge. Contact the Minnesota State Patrol District in your area. (See Appendix K)

Minnesota State Patrol District Index: <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/distindex/index.htm>

***See Appendix J for additional program resources.**

Possible incentives to promote attendance:

- 1) Raffle a donated item (I-pod, driver education classroom fee, etc.) to one parent from each class.
- 2) Offer a reduced student classroom fee if parent/guardian attends. (Example: class costs \$100, charge \$90 if parent attends.)
- 3) Make parent/guardian attendance a requirement for their teen to complete the class.
- 4) Partner with athletic directors and activity coaches to make the parent program a requirement for teen participation in any extra-curricular school activity. (MN. State High School League [MSHSL] model)

Community Involvement:

Many driver educators currently engage members of the community to compliment their programs. Particularly, law enforcement officers are invited to discuss teen driving risks and laws with students. Law enforcement officers understand the important role parents play in teen driving; therefore it's highly likely they will welcome the opportunity to extend the same learning opportunity to parents.

Emergency medical services staff see the horrible consequences of poor driving decisions made by teen drivers on a regular basis. They also recognize the importance of parental involvement and are likely to be receptive to participating in a parent education program.

Public health entities, such as community or county health departments, recognize teen driving as a significant public health concern. Providing education on injury prevention is a primary focus of public health organizations, which makes them excellent partners for implementing parent education programs.

Sustainability:

- 1) A modest increase in user fees, \$10 per student, may be imposed to offset program costs.
- 2) Partner (co-brand) with a local insurance agent to support the program and provide information on reducing insurance costs for teen drivers. (Allstate Insurance Co. 100 Deadliest Days Program Model)
- 3) Partner (co-brand) with a local business to help support /sustain the program.

Driver Education Parent/Guardian Program Awareness Survey

1. How confident are you in your understanding of Minnesota’s teen driving laws?

(Circle one number)

Very Confident	Confident	Neither Confident or Unconfident	Unconfident	Very Unconfident
1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rank the teen driver issues/problems in the order of importance to you:

1 = most important, 10 = least important

Seat Belt Use		Teen Passengers	
Alcohol/Drug Use		Night Driving	
Speeding		Driving on Snow or Ice	
Texting		Insurance Costs	
Cell Phone Use		Distractions	

3. For the first 6-months of licensure, teen drivers are allowed only ____ passenger(s) under age 20 who are not members of the driver’s immediate family, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. (Circle one answer)

- a.) 0 b.) 1 c.) 2 d.) 3 e.) 4 f.) No Limit

4. For the second 6-months of licensure, teen drivers are allowed only ____ passenger(s) under age 20 who are not members of the driver’s immediate family, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. (Circle one answer)

- a.) 0 b.) 1 c.) 2 d.) 3 e.) 4 f.) No Limit

5. A parent can withdraw consent for their child (under age 18), to drive by submitting a form to the Department of Public Safety. (Circle one answer) True False

6. During the first 6-months of licensure, novice teen drivers are prohibited from driving between ____ (time) and ____ (time), unless they are accompanied by someone 25 or older. (Circle one answer) a.) 9 p.m. & 5 a.m. b.) 11 p.m. & 6 a.m. c.) midnight & 5 a.m.

7. It’s illegal for a 16 year old licensed teen driver to use a cell phone while driving.

(Circle one answer) True False

8. It’s illegal for ____ to text or access the Internet, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

(Circle one answer) a.) teen drivers only b.) all drivers

9. Minnesota law requires ____ to be buckled up or to be in a proper child restraint.

(Circle one answer) a.) Only front seat occupants b.) All occupants c.) Only those under age 18

10. A person’s greatest lifetime chance of being in a fatal crash occurs ____ (Circle one answer)

- a.) during the first 6 to 12 months after receiving a license as a teenager.
 b.) when a teen is issued an instruction permit and learning how to drive.
 c.) after reaching the legal drinking age of 21.

Driver Education Parent/Guardian Program Awareness Survey **KEY (answers appear in bold print)**

(Pre-class, Post-class and after 6 –months)

1. How confident are you in your understanding of Minnesota's teen driving laws?

(Circle one number)

Very Confident	Confident	Neither Confident or Unconfident	Unconfident	Very Unconfident
1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rank the teen driver issues/problems in the order of importance to you:

1 = most important, 10 = least important

Seat Belt Use		Teen Passengers	
Alcohol/Drug Use		Night Driving	
Speeding		Driving on Snow or Ice	
Texting		Insurance Costs	
Cell Phone Use		Distractions	

3. For the first 6-months of licensure, teen drivers are allowed only ____ passenger(s) under age 20 who are not members of the driver's immediate family, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. (Circle one answer)

a.) 0 **b.) 1** c.) 2 d.) 3 e.) 4 f.) No Limit

4. For the second 6-months of licensure, teen drivers are allowed only ____ passenger(s) under age 20 who are not members of the driver's immediate family, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. (Circle one answer)

a.) 0 b.) 1 c.) 2 **d.) 3** e.) 4 f.) No Limit

5. A parent can withdraw consent for their child (under age 18), to drive by submitting a form to the Department of Public Safety. (Circle one answer)
- True**
- False

6. During the first 6-months of licensure, novice teen drivers are prohibited from driving between ____ (time) and ____ (time), unless they are accompanied by someone 25 or older. (Circle one answer)

a.) 9 p.m. & 5 a.m. b.) 11 p.m. & 6 a.m. **c.) Midnight & 5 a.m.**

7. It's illegal for a 16 year old licensed teen driver to use a cell phone while driving.

(Circle one answer) **True** False

8. It's illegal for ____ to text or access the Internet, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

(Circle one answer) a.) teen drivers only **b.) all drivers**

9. Minnesota law requires ____ to be buckled up or to be in a proper child restraint.

(Circle one answer) a.) Only front seat occupants **b.) All occupants** c.) Only those under age 18

10. A person's greatest lifetime chance of being in a fatal crash occurs ____ (Circle one answer)

a.) during the first 6 to 12 months after receiving a license as a teenager.

b.) when a teen is issued an instruction permit and learning how to drive.

c.) after reaching the legal drinking age of 21.

Evaluation Form for Parent Driver Education Class

(date)

Your feedback is very important.

Please take a few minutes to evaluate this Parent Driver Education Class.

(Circle One)

1. I will use the information from this class to help my teen become a safer driver. Yes No

2. I would recommend this class to other parents of teen drivers. Yes No

3. Please indicate the importance of each of the following topics presented in the class:
 (1= Very Unimportant 2= Somewhat Unimportant 3= Somewhat Important 4= Very Important)

Teen Driving Risks: 1 2 3 4

Teen Driving Laws: 1 2 3 4

Parents' Role: 1 2 3 4

Parents' Resources: 1 2 3 4

4. Please rate each of the following presentations from the class:
 (1= Poor 2=Fair 3= Good 4= Excellent)

Teen Driving Risks: 1 2 3 4

Teen Driving Laws: 1 2 3 4

Parents' Role: 1 2 3 4

Parents' Resources: 1 2 3 4

5. What topics, if any, should be added to future parent driver education classes?

6. Please list other suggestions for future parent driver education classes:

Day of the Week: _____

Time of Day: _____

Location: _____

Length of Class: _____

Other: _____

(Circle One)

7. Overall, this parent driver education class was: **Poor** **Fair** **Good** **Excellent**

Discussion Points

Teens:

- Traffic crashes are the leading cause of fatalities for teens.
 - 44% Motor Vehicle Crashes
 - 23% All Other Causes
 - 19% Homicide
 - 13% Suicide

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- In the United States, the crash rate per mile driven for 16-19 year-olds is 4 times the risk for older drivers. Risk is highest at age 16. In fact, the crash rate per mile driven is twice as high for 16 year-olds as it is for 18-19 year-olds.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)

- A person's greatest lifetime chance of being in a fatal crash occurs during the first 6 to 12 months after receiving a license as a teenager.

Source: National Safety Council (NSC)

- In Minnesota, teen male drivers and passengers age 15 – 19 are more than 1.6 times likely to die in a crash than females. (2005 – 2009: 160 males and 98 females)

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety (MN-DPS)

- Crash rates for teenagers are high largely because of their immaturity combined with driving inexperience.

Source: IIHS

- Many teenagers die as passengers in motor vehicle crashes. Sixty percent of teenage passenger deaths in 2009 occurred in vehicles driven by another teenager. Among deaths of passengers of all ages, 18 percent occurred when a teenager was driving.

Source: IIHS

- The common thinking is that thrill-seekers and risk-takers are the primary cause of crashes. Not so. While risky behavior does increase the chances of a crash, teens who are not risk-takers and who are responsible, smart, "good" kids can make mistakes or errors in judgment while driving.

Source: NSC

- The crash risk drops by more than 2/3 after the first 1,000 – 1,500 miles of independent driving.

Source: McCartt, Shabanova & Leaf, 2003

Speed:

- More than 1/3 of teen driver fatalities involve speeding. *Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Admin. (NHTSA)*
- Illegal/unsafe speed is the most common contributing factor in single-vehicle crashes. Teen drivers have difficulty judging safe speeds and adjusting their speed to driving conditions. *Source: MN-DPS*

Distractions:

- Driver distraction contributes to 80% of crashes and 65% of near crashes. *Source: VA Tech Transp. Institute*
- For 16 & 17 year old drivers, just one passenger increases crash risk by about 50%. With three or more passengers, the risk is nearly four times greater than while driving alone. *Source: IIHS*

Safety Belts:

- Lap and shoulder safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to vehicle occupants by 50%. *Source: NSC*
- 2/3 of teens killed in fatal crashes were not wearing seat belts. *Source: NHTSA*
- While rollovers account for only 3% of all passenger vehicle crashes, they account for fully 1/3 of all passenger vehicle fatalities, and 72% of those fatalities were unbuckled. *Source: NHTSA*

continued

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Driving at Night:

- While only 15% of teen drivers' miles occur at night, 40% of their fatal crashes occur during this time. *Source: NSC*
- Mile for mile, 16 and 17 year olds are about three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash at night than during the day. *Source: MN-DPS*
- In 2009, 17% of teen fatalities occurred between 9 pm and midnight, and 26% occurred between midnight and 6 am. Fifty-five percent of teen fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. *Source: IIHS*

Alcohol

- Drivers younger than 21 are more vulnerable than older drivers to the impairing effects of alcohol. At the same BAC, young drivers are far more likely to get into a fatal or nonfatal crash. *Source: IIHS*
- In Minnesota, 69% of teen drivers age 15 – 19 killed had not consumed alcohol, but 26 did. Of those killed that consumed alcohol, 88% were at or above .08 alcohol concentration. (2005 – 2009) *Source: MN-DPS*

Parents:

- 59% of parents are aware that vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teens, yet only 27% talk to their children about the dangers of unsafe driving at age 12 or younger. In comparison, 70% talk to them about the dangers of smoking and drug use.
- Less than one-third of parents say teens are good drivers, yet 88% of parents trust their teen to drive safely, and 55% believe that if their teen got into a crash, it would be someone else's fault.
- 48% of parents say other, more lenient parents make it difficult to control their teen's driving privileges.
- 38% of parents say they often disagree with their teen's other parent (their spouse) about establishing and enforcing family driving rules.
- 24% of parents say they've allowed their teen driving privileges against their own better judgment.
- 99% of parents believe demonstrating good driving behavior is helpful in teaching their teen safe driving, yet many parents admit to displaying bad driving behavior when their teens are in the car, including:
 - 71% have talked on a cell phone.
 - 62% have operated a radio, MP3 player, game, or other device.
 - 26% have broken one or more driving laws.
- 93% of parents believe they're prepared to teach their teens how to drive, yet they're not familiar with the laws and the main causes for teen involved crashes.
- 60% of parents have never heard of or are only vaguely aware of their state's graduated driver licensing laws, which are proven to save teen lives.
- 49% of parents incorrectly believe that most teen crashes result from impaired (drunk) driving, while the main causes are driving error, speeding, distractions, and driver inexperience. *Source: Allstate Foundation, 2007*
- Parents allow teens to drive in risky situations in the first few months after receiving their license:
 - 90% of parents allow their teen to drive after dark.
 - 77% allow their teen to drive with friends.
 - 70% allow their teen to drive in bad weather.
- Teenage drivers whose parents made reasonable efforts to monitor their vehicle usage were about 71 percent less likely to drink and drive and 30 percent less likely to use a cellular phone while driving than their counterparts.

Source: <http://www.insurance-website.com/Content/2009/09/29/study-parents-can-curb-teen-car-crashes/>

Teenage Driver Crash Risk Factors

Crash rates for 16- to 19-year old drivers are higher than those of any other age group.

A person's greatest lifetime chance of being in a fatal crash occurs during the first 6 to 12 months after receiving a license as a teenager.

The death rate for teen male drivers and passengers is more than 1.5 times greater than female teen drivers. (19.4 killed per 100,000 male drivers compared with 11.1 killed per 100,000 female drivers.)

What causes teen drivers to be such risky drivers? The following is a list of their primary risk factors.

Poor Hazard Detection

The ability to detect hazards in the driving environment depends upon perceptual and information-gathering skills and involves properly identifying potential threats. It takes many hours of driving experience for young novice drivers to acquire this ability.

Low Risk Perception

Risk perception involves assessing the degree of threat posed by a hazard and one's ability to deal with the threat. Young novice drivers tend to underestimate the crash risk in hazardous situations and overestimate their ability to avoid the threats they do identify.

Risk Taking

Teens tend to take more (and dangerous) risks while driving than adults due to overconfidence in their driving abilities and because the part of the brain that leads them to anticipate the consequences of their actions doesn't fully develop until they reach the mid-20's.

Not Wearing Seat Belts I

Teens tend to wear seat belts less often than other drivers and passengers.

Distracted or Inattentive Driving II, III

Distracted or inattentive driving is when a driver engages in any activity that might distract them from the primary task of driving — and increases their risk of crashing. Teens are more likely to engage in distracted driving behaviors such as using electronic devices for texting, accessing the internet or talking on a cell phone.

Carrying Passengers IV

For teens, the risk of being in a crash increases when they transport passengers. The fatality risk of drivers aged 16-17 years is 3.6 times higher when they are driving with passengers than when they are driving alone, and the risk of a fatal crash increases as the number of passengers increases. Other teen passengers may distract the teen drivers and encourage them to take more risks, especially young males riding with young male drivers.

Night Driving V

The 2007 – 2009 Minnesota fatal crash rate for teen drivers (age 16 – 19) between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. is 2.7 times higher than the remaining hours in the day. This is because the task of driving at night is more difficult; teens have less experience driving at night; teens are more sleep deprived, and because teen recreational driving is more likely to occur at night and involves alcohol more often than during the day.

Alcohol and Drugs VI

Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is a factor in serious crashes involving teen drivers, especially fatal crashes. Not only are drivers under age 21 more likely to be involved in fatal crashes than older drivers, but their risk for fatal crash involvement increases more sharply at all levels of alcohol use.

continued

- i MS 169.686 requires all drivers and passengers in all seating positions to be buckled up or in the correct child restraint.
- ii MS 171.055 Subd. 2(a) makes it illegal for teen drivers to use a cell phone while the vehicle is in motion.
- iii MS 169.475 makes it illegal for all drivers to use a device to compose, read, or send an electronic message or access the Internet, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.
- iv MS 171.055 Subd. 2© allows newly licensed teen drivers to have only one passenger under age 20 for the first 6-months of licensure, and no more than three passengers under age 20 for the subsequent 6-months, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Members of the driver's immediate family (siblings) are exempt.
- v MS 171.055 Subd. 2(b) prohibits novice teen drivers from midnight – 5 a.m. during the first 6-months of licensure, unless accompanied by a licensed driver age 25 or older, driving for employment purposes or school events.
- vi MS169A.33 makes it illegal for any person under age 21 to operate a vehicle with any detectable amount of alcohol in their system. When convicted, the driving privileges are suspended for 30 days. A second conviction will result in suspended driving privileges for 180 days. For alcohol concentrations at or above 0.08%, regular DWI penalties apply. If proven that alcohol or drugs caused the driver to commit a driving error, a conviction for DWI can result with an alcohol concentration below 0.08%.

Helping Your Teen Become a Smart Driver

As a parent, you ultimately want your child to be well-trained and as safe as possible when behind the wheel or as a passenger in someone else's vehicle. Learning to drive is part of that training, and it's important that parents play an active role in the process.

- Discuss the risks and responsibilities of driving with your child at a young age and keep talking to your teen before, during and after the licensing process. This discussion should have the same –or even higher priority level – as discussing sex and drugs.
- Practice what you preach. Be a positive role model when you're behind the wheel. Your teen is more likely to be a calm and courteous driver, wear a seat belt and follow the rules of the road if they see you do the same.
- Don't rush the training process. Just because a teen has a license, it doesn't mean they're ready for every driving situation or condition. Nothing can replace the many hours of supervised driving experience they need with you while learning how to handle most of the challenges they will eventually encounter independently.
- Understand your states graduated driver licensing laws. Familiarize yourself and your teen with these requirements, and establish your own rules for when, where, how, and with whom your teen may drive by creating a Parent-Teen Driving Contract. It's important that you set reasonable rules and limits, and follow through with consequences when problems arise.
- Even after receiving their license, teens are not prepared to drive on their own in every situation or during times of higher crash risk. Only you can decide when your teen is ready to drive without adult supervision in more challenging and risky situations.
- Empower your teen. Being a passenger in another teen's car can put your teen at risk. Peer pressure among teens can be both positive and negative. Make sure your teen knows it's okay to say something if uncomfortable while riding with a friend and help her practice what to say in these situations. Although you can't be with your teen at all times, you can say how important it is that your teen speaks up in dangerous situations.

**SHOULDER
TO SHOULDER**
Raising Teens Together



www.shouldertoshoulderminnesota.org

Positive Parenting is Ideal

<p>POSITIVE PARENTING is warm, supportive and encouraging while being firm, consistent and clear with limits and boundaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HIGH Nurturance ■ HIGH Expectations ■ HIGH Respect <p style="font-size: small; margin-left: 20px;"><i>"I'm important in my teen's life. We have some good times & some bad times, but I'm there for the long run."</i></p>	<p>DOMINATING PARENTING is harsh, punitive and rigid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LOW Nurturance ■ HIGH Expectations ■ LOW Respect <p style="font-size: small; margin-left: 20px;"><i>"I need to really clamp down now that he's a teen.. If you give him an inch, he'll take a mile"</i></p>
<p>PERMISSIVE PARENTING is inconsistent enforcement of rules, or no rules at all and a need to be a pal, more than a parent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HIGH Nurturance ■ LOW Expectations ■ MODERATE Respect <p style="font-size: small; margin-left: 20px;"><i>"I really want to enjoy parenting my teen. It's important for them to fit in & have what they want, & not have too many rules. We get along better that way."</i></p>	<p>UNENGAGED PARENTING is inconsistent presence in a child's life - teens raise themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LOW Nurturance ■ LOW Expectations ■ LOW Respect <p style="font-size: small; margin-left: 20px;"><i>"It's time to let go now that my child's grown up. It's time to get my needs met. He can take care of himself."</i></p>

Positive Parents

Provide LIMITS, Give clear RULES & BOUNDARIES while ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE

RESEARCH SAYS:

Teens raised by POSITIVE parents:

- Do better in school
- Have lower rates of depression and stress
- Are less likely to engage in risky behavior
- Have better social skills
- Are more respectful
- Deal better with Conflict

***Positive parenting has been shown to be the most effective parenting style.
This is true across different cultural, racial and economic groups.***

Teens Need Rules

FIRM RULES: Some rules are firm and not to be changed whether your teen agrees with them or not. These rules are understood by both parents and teens. Use firm rules when:

- Physical or Emotional Health and Safety is at stake
- The Family's Values are at stake

FLEXIBLE RULES: Some rules are open for discussion and can be negotiated, waived or changed, if there is a good reason. Use flexible rules when:

- It's not a health and safety issue
- The issue doesn't affect or compromise your family's values

Parents: Expect Resistance

Be Prepared

Wouldn't it be nice if your teen responded to your safety rules with "Thanks for caring!" But that's usually not the case. It's normal for your teen to resist restrictions, also known as rules. Testing limits to stretch boundaries is part of growing up. That's why you must stress that the rules are in place for safety, not to control your teen's life.

How can you do this? Calmly and clearly explain the rule and then back it up with fact. Your teen may respond by telling you not to worry. He has it all figured out. He can stay safe without following the rule. Be prepared. Here are some specific things you can say when your teen resists certain rules:

Seat belt use

You might say: *Do you always make sure that all your passengers are buckled up before turning the key?*

Expect: *It's not my job to make my friends buckle up—I'm not their mom.*

You might respond: *When you're the driver, you are the mom! Remember, you're responsible for everyone's safety in your car. Most crashes happen close to home, so there are NO exceptions to wearing a seat belt.*

Inexperience

You might say: *Until you're really experienced, I'll continue teaching you new driving skills, and we'll have rules in place to make sure you stay safe.*

Expect: *But I'm already experienced! I have a license.*

You might respond: *I'm proud of the work it took to earn that license but that's only the first step. Teens crash a lot during their first year of driving alone, and I don't want that to happen to you. It's my job to continue to help you stay safe.*

Talking on a cell phone

You might say: *You have to pull over if you ever need to call someone.*

Expect: *Don't worry; I put it on hands-free.*

You might respond: *Did you know that cell phones increase crash risk--hands-free or not! It's the conversation that takes your mind off the road.*

Texting

You might say: *Never, ever text while driving. It's deadly.*

Expect: *Yeah, if I texted like you. Watch this; I barely have to think about it.*

You might respond: *I'm impressed, but you still took your eyes off the road for three critical seconds. And don't forget it's not just about where your hands are, it's about where your mind is.*

Source: http://www.teendriversource.org/more_pages/page/expect_resistance/for_parents

Insurance Costs

Sample Insurance Quote for Teen Drivers

2005 Chevrolet Cavalier Sedan	
Coverage	Limit/Deductible
Injury & Damage	100/300/100
Uninsured Motorist	100/300
Underinsured Motorist	100/300
PIP/No-Fault	20/0/0
Comprehensive	750
Collision	750
Towing	Yes
Glass	Yes

MALE GOOD STUDENT, Age 16			
	Clean Record	One Ticket	DWI
Monthly Premium	\$131.57	\$148.82	\$484.02
Total 6-Month Premium	\$804.40	\$907.90	\$2,919.10

FEMALE GOOD STUDENT, Age 16			
	Clean Record	One Ticket	DWI
Monthly Premium	\$87.77	\$103.12	\$382.97
Total 6-Month Premium	\$541.60	\$633.70	\$2,312.80

Additional Program Resources

A. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

www.aaafoundation.org <http://teendriving.aaa.com/MN/>

B. Allstate Foundation

<http://www.allstate.com/foundation/teen-driving/parent-research.aspx>

C. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Enhancing Education to Keep Teens Safe on the Road, Training Tools for Worksite, School, and Community Educators, 2011

www.teendriversource.org

D. Minnesota Institute of Public Health

Shoulder to Shoulder, Positive Parenting Program

<http://www.shouldertoshouldermnnesota.org/?q=node/8>

E. National Safety Council.

Teen Driver, A Family Guide to Teen Driver Safety, The Right Decisions for Their Sake

www.teedriver.nsc.org

F. National Organizations for Youth Safety

www.noys.org

Video Resources

A. AT&T Texting While Driving. (10.44 min.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DebhWD6ljZs>

B. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Parents are the Key to Safe Drivers. (4.43 min.)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ParentsAreTheKey/socialmedia/video.html>

Minnesota Driver Education Associations:

There are approximately 370 individual driver education contacts (signers) in Minnesota.

110 are Commercial Schools and 260 are Public/Private School Programs.

There are 4 known driver education associations in MN:

- Driving School Association of the Americas (DSAA) Web site: <http://thedsaa.org/>
Contact: Debra Prudhomme E-mail: djprudhomme@t-wheels.com
- Minnesota Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (MDTSEA) Web site: www.mdtsea.net
- Minnesota Driving School Association
Contact: Cindy Thienes E-mail: cthienes@safewaydrivingschool.com
- Professional Driving Association of Northern Minnesota
Contact: Mary Madden E-mail: mikeandmary@northlc.com

Minnesota State Patrol Contact List

<u>Central Office, St.Paul</u>	Lt. Eric Roeske	(651) 201-7146
<u>DISTRICT 2100, Rochester</u>		(507) 285-7406
<u>DISTRICT 2200, Mankato</u>		(507) 344-2750
<u>DISTRICT 2300, Marshall</u>		(507) 537-3664
<u>DISTRICT 2400, Oakdale</u>		(651) 779-5900
<u>DISTRICT 2500,Golden Valley</u>		(763) 591-4680
<u>DISTRICT 2600, St. Cloud</u>		(320) 255-2916
<u>DISTRICT 2700, Duluth</u>		(218) 723-4888
<u>DISTRICT 2800,Brainerd</u>		(218) 828-2230
<u>DISTRICT 2900, Detroit Lakes</u>		(218) 847-1584
<u>DISTRICT 3100, Virginia</u>		(218) 749-7720
<u>DISTRICT 3200, Thief River Falls</u>		(218) 681-0943

