



Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent opi.mt.gov



Montana's Experience with GDL and Young Driver Programs

David Huff, Presenter

Vision Safe Drive

Northern Rocky Mountain Region Rural Transportation Safety Conference

Bismarck, ND November 29-30, 2007



History of MT GDL Bills

- 1999 first bill – failed (6 months after I took job)
- 2001 – passed legislature – Governor Vetoes
- 2003 – failed
- 2005 – passed
 - MT State Highway Traffic Safety Office pulled players together with eye to start the implementation process
 - All agencies involved with highway safety were involved
 - OPI helped refine the language for information flyers
 - OPI coordinated development and payment of Parent Role in Teen Driving and GDL brochure
 - OPI chairs Young Driver initiatives on Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan
 - OPI continues efforts to research and develop program assets





WHY OPI?

- 85% of high schools participate in the Cooperative Driver Testing Program
 - Complete applications for Permit
 - Conduct knowledge and skills tests
- 75% of eligible teens in Montana take driver education
- 78% of high schools involve parents in driver education

- Schools are the front line for communicating and informing public on GDL

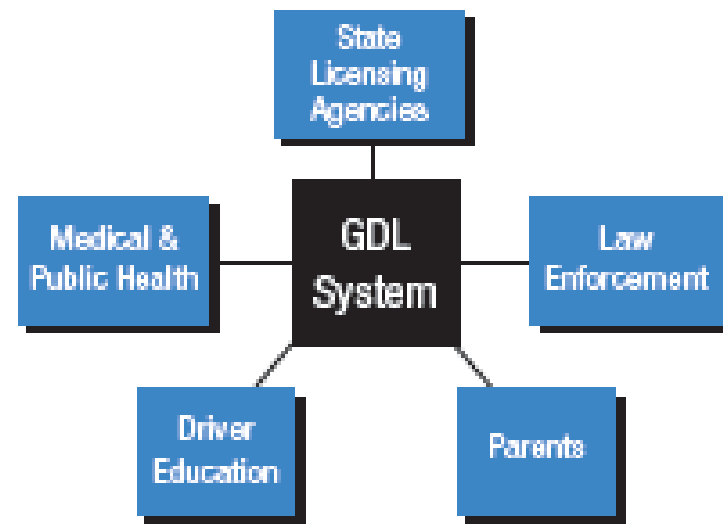




Traffic Ed Unit Philosophy

■ Senge stated in his book on systems,

“...it should come as no surprise that the unhealthiness of our world today is in direct proportion to our inability to see it as a whole (2000, p. 68).”





Traffic Ed Unit Philosophy

- ❖ Driver Education alone will not significantly decrease young driver crashes
- ❖ Driver Education/Training is the foundation upon which safe driving norms and crash reduction interventions are built
 - ❖ How can crash reduction efforts be successful if kids and society do not know what is expected nor possess the skills needed to perform the expected behaviors?
- ❖ Helping with GDL and other agency efforts will benefit driver education and help reduce teen crashes





GUIDING GDL PHILOSOPHY

- Advocates sold the Legislature that GDL is a tool to empower parents to do what they do...
 - Nurture, protect and prepare their kids
- I believe the most promising efforts on GDL improvements and success are with the parents, not government
- I believe government's role is to provide resources to parents and to back up their efforts, not supplant
- I think my beliefs are representative of others in MT

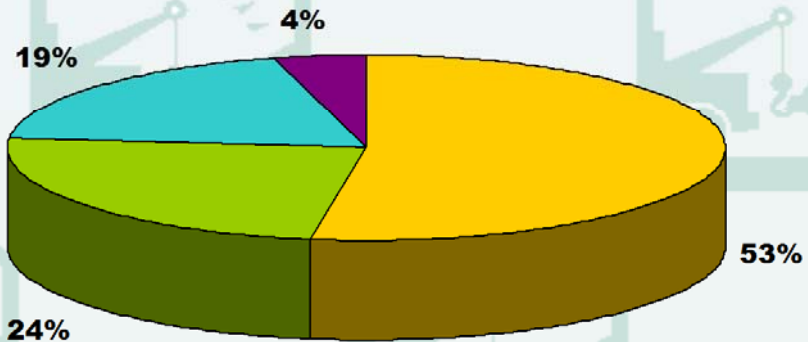




Montana Parent Survey

Should parents be required to be involved in driver's ed?

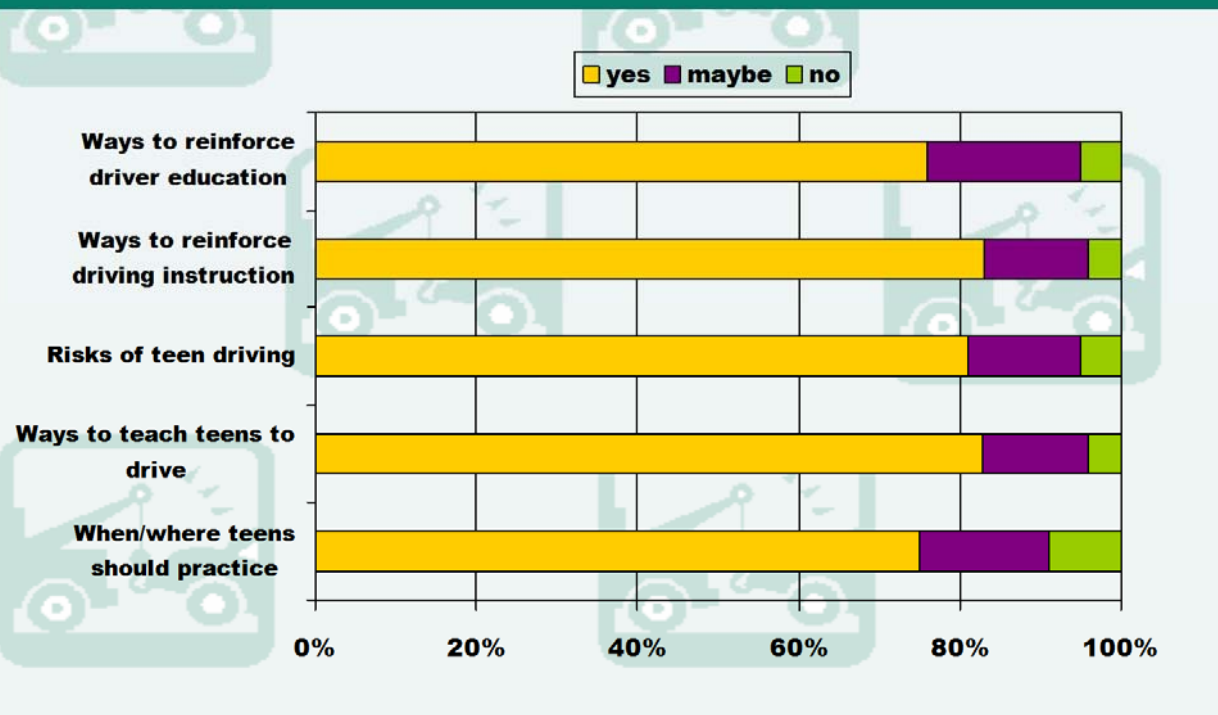
- Yes, definitely
- Yes, if convenient
- Maybe, not sure
- No they should not





Montana Parent Survey

Would you want information on any of the following?





Negotiated Language for GDL



WHO: Anyone under age 18 who has not been issued a driver's license or driving permit before July 1, 2006

STEP ONE – INSTRUCTION PERMIT (Traffic Education Learner's License)

WHEN:

- Starts with traffic education learner's license or permit obtained in a state-approved driver education program as early as age 14 ½ or without driver education, with a learner's license obtained from a driver exam station as early as age 16

HOW LONG: Minimum of six months

CONDITIONS:

- 50 hours of **supervised driving** - 10 hours must be at night
- Supervision to be provided by a licensed parent/guardian or licensed driver age 18 or older authorized by a parent/guardian
- Each occupant must wear a seatbelt
- Remain free from traffic violations and alcohol/drug offenses

STEP TWO – RESTRICTED LICENSE

WHEN:

- Starts with successful completion of Step One - Instruction Permit, and parent/guardian certification of no alcohol/drug or traffic offenses, and 50 hours of supervised driving

HOW LONG: One year

CONDITIONS:

- Each occupant must wear a seatbelt.
- May not drive between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., some exceptions* may apply
- For the first six months may have only one unrelated passenger under age 18 unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older
- For the second six months may have up to three unrelated passengers under age 18, unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older

Penalty for Step Two Violations

First Offense - not less than 20 hours or more than 60 hours of community service

Second Offense - suspension of driver's license for six months

STEP THREE – FULL PRIVILEGE DRIVER'S LICENSE

WHEN:

- Upon successful completion of Steps One and Two or reach age 18, whichever comes first

*Exceptions to night driving restrictions include emergencies, travel to and from school, church or work and farm related activities

For more information including how GDL applies to motorcycles see the GDL bill at <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/BillPdf/SB0104.pdf>

OPI Distributed by: Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
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Montana GDL Parent Role Guide

Four Basic Messages

- Know Montana's GDL laws
- Supervise teen driving
- Set family driving rules and limits
- Impose consequences for violations

**The Parent Role
In Teen Driving and
Graduated Driver Licensing**

GDL
in Montana

Major Sponsor

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE*

OTHER SPONSORS & PARTNERS

- AAA Mountain West**
www.aaa.com
- Department of Justice
Motor Vehicle Division**
www.doj.mt.gov
- Office of Public Instruction
Traffic Education Program**
www.opi.mt.gov
- Department of Transportation
Highway Traffic Safety Division**
www.mdt.mt.gov
- Montana Traffic Education
Association**
- Montana Council for Maternal &
Child Health**
mcmch@sy-key.com
- Montana Chapter, American
Academy of Pediatrics**
www.aap.org
- MT DPHHS, EMS & Trauma Systems
Section** <http://montanaems.mt.gov>
- Montana Motor Carriers Association**
www.mttrucking.org

Additional Resources about Teen Driving

- Partners for Safe Teen Driving
<http://www.safeteendiving.org/>
- Road Ready Teens
<http://www.roadreadyteens.org/>
- NETS Network of Employees for Traffic
Safety [http://www.trafficsafety.org/
worklife/notice.asp](http://www.trafficsafety.org/worklife/notice.asp)
- National Safety Council
<http://www.nsc.org/issues/teendiving/>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Admin-
istration <http://www.nhtsa.vdot.gov>





Permit Overlap Clarification



Driving in Montana Instruction Permits and Learner Licenses



PERMITS USED FOR TRAFFIC EDUCATION			
TEP Traffic Education Permit	AGE* - enrolled in approved traffic education program *Enrollment age is subject to school policy	DURATION Only during approved traffic education course with traffic education instructor. TEP expires at the end of class	RESTRICTION Drive only with approved traffic education instructor during driver education class
TELL - Traffic Education Learner License	AGE at least 14 1/2 and enrolled in or successfully completed approved traffic education course	DURATION Valid for one year May use until eligible for Restricted License	RESTRICTION Drive only with traffic education instructor, licensed parent or legal guardian**

****NOTE: IF PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS WANT THEIR STUDENT TO DRIVE WITH OTHER ADULTS DURING THE GDL PERMIT PHASE, STUDENTS MUST OBTAIN AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT**

PERMIT AVAILABLE AFTER OR WITHOUT TRAFFIC EDUCATION			
Instruction Permit (IP)/Learner License	AGE 15 after successful completion of approved traffic education course; or age 16 without traffic education	DURATION Valid for one year	RESTRICTION Drive only with licensed parent, legal guardian or licensed driver age 18 or older authorized by parent

GDL Restricted License	Full Privilege Driver License
BEGINS after student has had any combination of TEP, TELL or IP at least six months AND while holding the permit(s), the student has completed 50 hours of supervised driving practice – 10 hours must be at night	BEGINS after student has completed one-year GDL restricted license period or if the student turns 18 before the one-year restricted license period is complete, when the student turns 18
DURATION One Year	DURATION EXPIRES ON 21 ST BIRTHDAY
GDL RESTRICTIONS - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > First 6 months only one unrelated passenger > Second 6 months up to 3 unrelated passengers > Each occupant must wear a seat belt > No driving between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Exceptions to night driving restrictions include emergencies, travel to and from school, church, or work and farm related activities	REMEMBER Drive Safely Follow the rules of the road Everyone wears a seat belt Drive sober

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QMYD Department of Justice - Motor Vehicle Division - www.doj.mt.gov/driving

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Montana Driver Education Curriculum

- Standards/Benchmarks
- Scope and Sequence
- Curriculum Map
- Supplemental Resources
- 20 Modules – I Parent Night
 - Lesson Plans
 - PowerPoint Lectures
 - Student Activities/PEPs
 - Worksheets
 - Fact Sheets
 - Quizzes/Tests/Answers/Test Banks





Advanced Options





Montana Improvements/Collaborations

- Parent Survey (Completed)
 - Expanded to Include Native Americans
- GDL Parent Role Brochure
- Permit Clarification Document
- Two-Stage Teen Driver Education Research
- Planned: Parent Involvement Module for DE Curriculum
- Planned: Native American Teacher/Program Expansion and Study
- Ongoing: Strategic Planning with State Highway Safety Panel.





MT Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan

■ Young Driver Strategies

- Provide Tools and Incentives to Incorporate Traffic Safety Education in Elementary and Junior High Schools
- Primary Safety Belt Law/Child Passenger Safety
- Affordable/Accessible Drivers Education at all Schools
- Develop a Role and Strategy for Law Enforcement in GDL





GDL Results in Montana

- To early to have data to compare pre and post
- Anecdotally, driver examiners who give the driving test following the permit phase report that teens are more proficient drivers than before GDL
- The Driver Records Unit reports that only a few teens have lost their license due to GDL restriction violations...which requires two offenses...first offense results in public service
- A new database system will be in place in another year and allow better mining of the data





Contact Information

THANK YOU

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