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 Vetoed
- 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
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: 53%
- Yes, if convenient: 24%
- Maybe, not sure: 19%
- No they should not: 4%
Would you want information on any of the following?

- Ways to reinforce driver education
- Ways to reinforce driving instruction
- Risks of teen driving
- Ways to teach teens to drive
- When/where teens should practice

[Bar chart showing percentages for each category]
Negotiated Language for GDL

WHO: Anyone under age 16 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 1/2, 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 19 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:
- 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 16 unless supervised by a licensed driver age 19 or older.
- For the second six months, may have up to three unrelated passengers under age 16, unless supervised by a licensed driver age 19 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 16, whichever comes first.

For more information including how GDL applies to motorcycles see the GDL bill at http://data.statemt.gov/bills/2005/B1010/5801014.pdf.

Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

April, 2006
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
# Permit Overlap Clarification

## Driving in Montana
### Instruction Permits and Learner Licenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TEP - Traffic Education Permit</th>
<th>TELL - Traffic Education Learner License</th>
<th>Instruction Permit / Learner License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Valid only during approved traffic education course</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14½</td>
<td>Valid only during approved traffic education course with TE instructor</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Valid only during approved traffic education course with TE instructor</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Valid only during approved traffic education course with TE instructor</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Valid only during approved traffic education course with TE instructor</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Valid only during approved traffic education course with TE instructor</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Permits Used for Traffic Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Restriction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14½</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Drive only with TE instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Drive only with TE instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Drive only with TE instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### GDL Restricted License

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Drive only with licensed parent, legal guardian, or licensed driver age 18 or older authorized by parent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Full Privilege Driver License

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Expires on 21st birthday</td>
<td>No passenger restrictions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Permit Available After or Without Traffic Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Restriction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Valid for one year</td>
<td>Drive only with licensed parent, legal guardian, or licensed driver age 18 or older authorized by parent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Notes
- **TEP**: Traffic Education Permit
- **TELL**: Traffic Education Learner License
- **GDL**: Graduated Driver License
- **OPI**: Montana Office of Public Instruction

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**September 2007**

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

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

Modified: 11/30/2007
Montana Driver Education Curriculum

- Standards/Benchmarks
- Scope and Sequence
- Curriculum Map
- Supplemental Resources
- 20 Modules – 1 Parent Night
  - Lesson Plans
  - PowerPoint Lectures
  - Student Activities/PEPs
  - Worksheets
  - Fact Sheets
  - Quizes/Tests/Answers/Test Banks
Montana
DR.I.V.E. Facility

- Skid Pad
- Controlled Braking
- Classroom
- Serpentine
- Evasive Steering
- Off-road Recovery
- Monster Pad
- Variable Radius Cornering

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.
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
THANK YOU

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