

Teen Driving / Parent Component to Driver Education
Break-out Session Notes
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Teen Driving / Parent Component to Driver Education

There are 387 driver education providers in the state of Minnesota with 43 of those in the Southeast.

The family is in the best position to have an affect on reducing the risks of inexperienced drivers and encouraging responsible behaviors.

Parental involvement may reduce teen crash risks by half.

The primary goal of implementing the parent component is to reduce teen driver involved crashes and to increase parents' awareness of safety issues.

Minnesota Teen Safe Driving Coalition Objectives:

- Peer to Peer
- Tool kit for teens working with tweens
- Implement parent component into 20 drivers education classes in 2011

Parent Class Objectives:

- Increase parent awareness of the "Real" risks
- Teen driving laws
- Important role of parents
- Resources for parents

Model:

- Parent meeting to be 1 1/2 hours
- Encourage community involvement
 - Law Enforcement
 - EMS
 - Public Health
 - TZD Coalitions
- Localized with a flexible time
- Pre and post evaluation

Emotional Appeal:

Tug at the parents' heartstrings by use of ...

- Local connections
- Video (<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/investigative/investigators%3A-mock-crash%2C-real-lesson-may-5-2011>)
- Power Point
- Young Forever Program

Real Risks... Good Kids Make Mistakes Too!

Many parents don't know what the teen driving laws are, why they exist, and that they're not all best practices.

Decisions: Safety over Convenience

Drivers' Education "Supplements" what parents do.

The only way teens are going to be well educated drivers is with lots of practice.

Parents have the right to withdrawal consent of their teens driving privileges (fill out a withdrawal of parental consent / voluntary surrender form and mail to the Driver and Vehicle Services).

The meeting will also provide resources on teen driving laws, handling resistance, teen driving contracts and driving logs.

Positive Parenting is Ideal...

- Set rules and follow through with consequences.
- Be warm, supportive and encouraging but firm and consistent.

Ways to get parents to attend these meetings:

- Set as a requirement
- Use material incentives (free gifts, drawings, etc.)
- Offer financial incentives (discount fees)

How to sustain these classes?

- Fee
- Community Partnerships (law enforcement, insurance agents, etc.)

Winona County Safe Communities worked with United Driving School to implement the parent component in their classes. The first class was offered on January 18, 2011. Flyers were sent home with students inviting parents to attend, these were also mailed to home addresses. A follow-up call was made and they were also offered a light meal as an incentive to attend the meeting. Thirty six parents/students attended the meeting.

The "Forever Young" video presented by Minnesota State Patrol is a great visual impact for teens and parents. Adding an insurance agent to provide information on how driving violations affect insurance rates could be useful.

Q. Can the "Forever Young" video be shown to a whole grade level within a school as an assembly?

A. Yes. The "Forever Young" video can be requested from State Patrol for presentation; before the presentation State Patrol will go over what to do when encountering deer crossing, things in the roadway and encourages students to speak up when riding in a vehicle where drivers' are not being safe.

A drivers' education instructor stated that he offers the parent component. If a parent cannot attend any adult family member (grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.) may take the place of a parent at the meeting.

The teens suggested using the parental revocation of driving privileges as an invisible threat. Teens often learn better by using hands on approach.