



# MTEA NEWS

## If a Teen fails Traffic Ed do they keep their Permit?

### Old Rule vs New Rule for TELL(LL)

Law interpretation by: Tyson Miller (MVD/DOJ) and Patti Borneman (OPI), with outline by Susan Carney

#### Law standard reads:

*Driver Examination Procedures Students completing a traffic education course should be advised to make an appointment at the driver license station they intend to visit. Students need to bring their required documents for proof of identity, authorized presence, and Montana residency. They must also present their social security card and notarized driver license application (or a parent may sign the application in front of one of the driver license officials) to the licensing official at the time they appear for examination.*

*Before students 15 years of age can obtain a driver license, the administrative official of the school district must verify successful completion of a state-approved Traffic Education Program to the DOJ-Motor Vehicle Division Driver License Examiner. This is accomplished by submitting the TE04 Student List and TE03 Certification forms indicating successful completion at the conclusion of each Traffic Education Program. Most districts are submitting required forms via the OPI's Traffic Education Data & Reporting system (TEDRS). See Appendix A and B for detailed instructions on processing and submitting these forms to the Driver License Station and the OPI.*

#### OLD RULE (pre AG 15 year old mandate)

1. If a Teen takes (TELL) LL permit **PRIOR** to their 15th Birthday: (**PERMIT NOT VALID**)
  - a) drops from class with **LESS** than 50% - LL permit is no longer valid - no reimbursement eligible.
  - b) drops from class **AFTER** 50% of Class AND 50% of Driving completion - LL permit is no longer valid - child waits until 16 to retest written and start over OR take another TE class - marked unsuccessful in TEDRS - reimbursement IS eligible.
  - c) is indicating unsuccessful completion of the class - LL permit is no longer valid - child waits until 16 to retest written and start over - AND if over 50% of both reimbursement is eligible.

2. If a Teen takes (TELL) LL permit **ON OR AFTER** their 15th Birthday: (**PERMIT NOT VALID**)

- a) Same as 1a above
- b) Same as 1b above
- c) Same as 1c above

3. If a teen takes the (TELL) LL permit **ON OR AFTER** their 16th birthday: (**PERMIT VALID**)

- a) 1a, 1b,1c above does NOT apply as they are 16 and LL Permit **IS VALID** and child can keep permit and continue towards their GDL.

#### NEW RULE UNDER AGE 15 YEAR OLD MANDATE

1. If a Teen takes (TELL) LL permit **PRIOR** to their 15th Birthday : (**PERMIT IS NOT VALID**)

- a) Same as 1a, 1b, 1c old law above

2. **The above #2 phase under this AG Mandate is suspended to the 15 year old age not 16. See below #3 for suspended situation.**

3. If a teen takes the (TELL) LL permit **ON OR AFTER** their **15th birthday**: (**PERMIT VALID**)

- a) 1a, 1b, 1c above does NOT apply as they are 15 and LL Permit **IS VALID** and child can keep permit and continue towards their GDL.



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## MTEA President's Message

### *MTEA President's Message: Denise Bordeleau (2022-2023)*

Traffic Education Instructors,

I am Denise Bordeleau, President of MTEA. You are receiving this newsletter as either a current, past, or prospective member of the Montana Traffic Education Association. If you are a state-approved traffic educator, we hope you will consider joining our organization and attend our conference in April.



Hi all, welcome to a new school year. Many things cross my mind at this time of year, especially about driving, our new drivers, and the people that are watching over them while driving. Road conditions are changing; things happen. Did I prep my students enough? Let's hope so for all of our sakes.

This summer I came upon an accident at 11:30 pm and the people out flagging could not be seen. Three people in the middle of the road using a phone as light were another crash waiting to happen. The good news is that the 17 yr. old driver and passenger were ok. They had hit an elk. This made me think about safety at night and all year long.

On that note, there are items we all should check and make sure are in our vehicles at all times and especially during bad weather. When was the last time you checked your emergency kit to see if flashlight batteries are good, any flares or reflective markers included, are there basic tools for minor repairs, is the spare in good condition and at the right pressure? What about an emergency accident report form? Do you have an emergency kit for winter that includes food, water, sleeping bag or blankets, first aid kit, required medications and an extra set of dry clothing? Check into it.

Have a great year!

Denise Bordeleau

**Tip of the Week**

**What to do in the immediate aftermath of a car accident**

No two car accidents are the same, but the Insurance Information Institute recommends anyone involved in a car accident take the following steps to make the most informed decisions in what is often a difficult situation.

- Assess your physical condition.
- Assess passengers' physical condition.
- Get to a safe place.
- Call 911.
- Turn the vehicle off.
- Exchange information.
- Avoid discussing fault with the other driver.
- Document the accident.
- Notify your insurance provider.

*This was a great find in the Lewistown Argus this past summer. Use as you please!*

## Traffic Ed - Horoscope

By Peregrine Frissell, Columbia Falls

We all know that being a traffic education instructor requires no small amount of faith. To climb into a car with a student is to put faith in that student, their previous driving instructors, and yourself. Some might also find it calming to think about a power beyond that, a level of organization bestowed on this universe by an unknown force that we can barely understand, yet it keeps us safe. Today, some will be unlucky, but for us it is not this day. We will live to ride again. The Montana Traffic Education Association newsletter is here to demystify how the powers that be will influence your life as a traffic education instructor this fall.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Known for being creative and adept at coming up with new ideas long after others have continued to retread the same ground. Sometimes that can also come across as unpredictability, like that motorcyclist in front of you that may or may not use their turn signal. Others watch your lane position to avoid being taken by surprise, but mostly just try to hang on for the ride.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** Known for being in tune with your emotions and feeling them deeply, you are the anxious driver. Your anxiety isn't something anyone hopes for, but it's rooted in care for the other people in your car and is, in a way, quite admirable. Also, there is no greater feeling of accomplishment than seeing your students pass their final driving test.

**Aries (March 21 - April 19)** Aries are known for doing what they want, when they want. That isn't inherently a good or bad thing, it just depends on what you want and who gets in the way. You are like the teenage biker, who cruises down the road in rapidly changing lane positions while the wind blows in your helmetless hair. You'll sooner stand on your handlebars than check your rear zones.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Among the most stable and reliable of signs, you are the seasoned and fully endorsed driver's education instructor. Some may construe your certainty as stubbornness, perhaps even correctly on certain occasions, however it comes from long years of seeing mistakes and subsequent growth. Behind the wheel you are unflappable, and your instructions are always at least one full block ahead.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20)** Geminis are known for being curious beings, snooping and sniffing around corners that others stroll by without a second thought. This fall you are the unleashed dog, darting to and for investigating things that in your mind are far more important than the issues others around you are dedicating their minds to. With a little luck, you'll live to continue pondering the issues of tomorrow.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22)** You are known for being empathetic and team-oriented, potentially to a fault. You are the elderly man that reaches controlled intersections at the same time as other people only to wave them on. And on. And on. Too caught up in being friendly and defensive to realize you are yourself becoming the hazard.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22)** One only needs to look to other famous Leos of our time – celebrities such as Madonna, Jennifer Lopez, and Sandra Bullock – to know that Leos have no problem being the center of attention. They are like the crossing guards of the traffic ed world, putting on brightly colored clothes to make sure everyone looks at them and continuously inserting themselves in the places where people simply can't forget about you.

**Virgo (August 23 - Sept. 22)** You are the seasoned driver's ed instructor and your ability to bring order to chaos is on fine display this fall. The person next to you may be nervous, but you remain cool as a cucumber. You remain calm and that helps those around you find a state of peace in trying times too.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** Famous Librans include Lil' Wayne, Kim Kardashian, and Snoop Dogg. Your sign is the scale; you love to see things in black and white and do your best to make sense of who is at fault in even the most complex accidents. You are like the traffic officers of our streets; the constables who try to separate right from wrong while also keeping the peace.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** Scorpions are like the Montana Legislature of the traffic education world. To others, their pursuit can look like controlling tendencies but to do their job well they have to obsess over small details and mistakes and they do push everyone to be better. Whether they always achieve it or not is up to debate.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Not known for letting people tell you what to do, you enjoy charting your own course and bristle at being hemmed in by boundaries that appear arbitrary or inconvenient. You are like the bold pedestrian; used to crossing quiet streets without looking either way because you know vehicles should yield to you no matter what. It isn't always wise, but you aren't wrong.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** People of this sign are often workaholics, known for being fiercely motivated to accomplish what is in front of them and move on to what is next. You are like the long-haul truck drivers of the road, chugging along with more diligence and more of a strict schedule than 99 percent of the other people on the road. It is often your reasonable pace that makes other less risk-averse people slow down and you deliver things that make the world go 'round. You deserve more respect than you probably sometimes get.

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## My First Drive Experience

by Jason Christenson, Havre

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As a novice instructor, nerves, uncertainty, and confidence were all tested when stepping into that car for the first time. During my drive with the student driver, I quickly realized that my cues and ability to coach all dictate the emotion and confidence of this youngster. Understanding this, I assumed a lead role and tried to demonstrate the demeanor that I absolutely needed the driver to show, even though I was fighting with this inner turmoil.

Reflection on the training I had received from both Susan and Steff, and the advice I got from Jerry, allowed me to lock into the drive with the correct cues, tone of voice, and body language to be successful. As we continued to drive through the designed route, I realized I was teaching this young driver to navigate the streets of Havre, MT in a safe and controlled manner.

It wasn't till the drive was complete and the feedback from Jerry that I was able to take a deep breath and fully understand what I had just accomplished as a driving instructor. The constructive, positive feedback I received from Jerry was all I needed to walk away with confidence and certainty, looking forward to my next drive. In closing, I want to thank some of the best instructors and people I have met in my life. I know that they will be strong resources for me in the future as I continue to walk down this path to become a quality driving instructor.

## MTEA Executive Board Meeting

**April 25, 2022 at spring conference—Helena**

- Minutes, financial reports, and correspondence were reviewed.
- An overview of the conference was provided, including the agenda, meals, awards, door prizes, and silent auction.
- An update on the newsletter and web page was provided. Those willing to provide articles for future issues were identified.
- Classification Meeting results were discussed.

The next meeting was tentatively planned for early fall. Anyone having items for discussion should contact Denise Bordeleau, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, to be included on the agenda.

## MTEA President-Elect and Executive Board

We welcome Riley Ramsey of Hardin as our new President-Elect! Riley will assume duties during the 2023 annual meeting in the spring. The President-Elect must be a current board member. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the leadership of this Association, please consider being a "member at large" or even a "classification member". We encourage you to "get involved"!

## LeAnn Haas Takes on New Duties With OPI

For those who still may not have heard, our own LeAnn Haas has assumed the duties of Program Specialist for the Traffic Education Department at OPI. She was officially hired this past summer and joins Dwight Nelson, Traffic Education Director, in the day-to-day management of TE programs across the state. She can be reached at (406) 444-4432. Welcome LeAnn!

## Membership Update

At the 2022 spring conference business meeting, the membership voted to discontinue the AD&D insurance program due to rising costs. This is no longer a part of our membership benefits. Contact Executive Secretary Jim Carroll with any questions.



Fall 2022

# OPI Traffic Education News



## DOJ Reimbursement

Hello Traffic Education Colleagues,  
 Thank you for all of your hard work for the 2021-2022 school year and making the roads of Montana safer. It is exciting to be a part of a record breaking reimbursement year! A total of \$1.3 million was distributed to the schools at an amount of \$164.04 per student for all 7,925 students who completed at least 50% of a traffic education course. The last highest reimbursement was \$1,000,000 in 2015. Here's a look at the past five years of reimbursement amounts for the schools:

School Year Ending	Reimbursement
2018	\$925,000
2019	\$675,000
2020	\$825,000
2021	\$985,000
2022	\$1.3 Million

## Important Dates

As the new school year is underway, it is a good time to look at your TEDRS account. If you haven't logged in to the Secure Portal, it does take a little longer. Has your district submitted their TE01 application? District applications are due annually by August 1st if first traffic education course begins fall semester OR before the district's traffic education program begins in the spring or summer.

Reminder: the 6 month window for the GDL starts with the date the TEP is issued.

The third Tuesday in October is dedicated as

# Montana Teen Driver Safety Day!

This year, that day falls on October 19th.

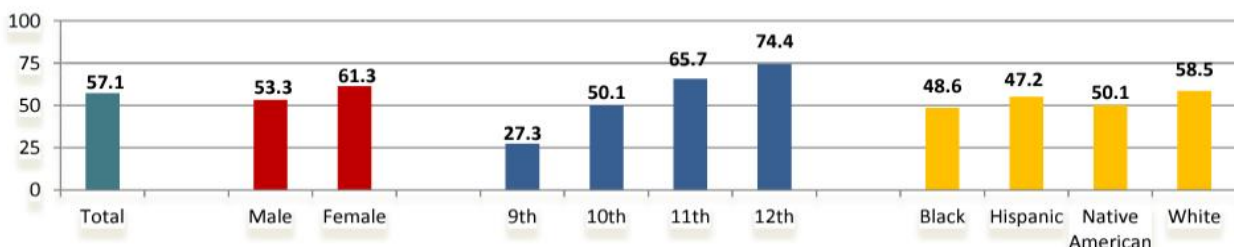
## Know the Facts About Teen Driver Fatalities

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for teens (15-18 years old) in the United States.
- In 2020, there were 2,276 people killed in crashes involving a teen passenger vehicle driver (15-18 years old), of which 748 deaths were the teen driver.

### TEXTING AND DRIVING

Among Montana students who drove a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days, 57.1 percent texted or e-mailed while driving.



## The Lighter Side of Driving With Teens

by Patricia Saylor (Butte)

### *Most frequently asked question on 1st drive.....*

Teen: Is it true we can go 5 mph over the speed limit?

Me: Why would they do that? What would be the purpose of the speed limit law if you could break it?

I could never understand who came up with this logic.

**Driving with Teens:** What's the chances you would schedule two kids that love to argue in the same car together?

I have one rule—no “debating” when sitting in the drivers seat.

**Driving with Teens:** I'm at our Driver's Ed conference and I have to share this story.

Background—speaker is a driver's ed teacher in the Billings area. He has taught both special ed and driver's ed for many years. He has a kid on a Saturday drive at 6 a.m. in the winter.

The kid ends up stuck in a snowbank. They try rocking the car with no luck. If they get through the low spot of snow there is a dry spot up ahead. He finally tells the kid, “I'm going to get out and

try pushing. When you get to this spot (points ahead) push on the brake and stop the car. Can you do this? “

Student answers, “Yes, I can. “

Teacher now demonstrates what he does to illustrate to the group.

He is bent over his left shoulder and arm, right hand is on the trunk area and he is mimicking rocking his body back and forth in an effort to push the vehicle. Then he shifts his body to the right shoulder. When he turns to the other side, there is his only student helping push on the car with him and no one is in the car to stop it.

The teacher says: “What are you doing?”

Student says, “I didn't think you could push it by yourself. “

\*\*\*\* Forgot to mention.....the student had also locked the keys in the car with the engine running. His parents and the locksmith about died laughing!



## Outstanding Traffic Education Teacher of the Year Award

Since 1988, the Montana Traffic Education Association has honored an exceptional Traffic Education teacher with an annual Teacher of the Year (TOY) award presented at MTEA's spring conference. Any active teacher who has devoted a good part of their teaching career to traffic education is eligible to apply. Teachers can self-nominate or be nominated by someone who is familiar with their traffic education work. Deadline for nomination form is March 1st, so don't delay!

Download the two-page nomination form from the website at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) (which includes a section that is completed by the candidate). A TOY committee member will review the application. If the nomination is eligible for consideration, the candidate will receive a letter notifying them of the nomination. For more information, contact Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary.

## Outstanding Traffic Education Contributor of the Year Award

MTEA recognizes companies, organizations, and individuals who make generous contributions of time, energy, equipment and/or expertise to support and sustain the mission of the Montana Traffic Education Association. To nominate a person or business for this honor, download the COY nomination form at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) and submit to MTEA by the March 1st deadline. The Outstanding Contributor/Sustainer of the Year will be recognized at MTEA's spring conference in April.

Examples of outstanding contributors or sustainers are MVD driver examiners who have gone out of their way to assist driver education teachers with their CDTP requirements and needs; car dealerships who have loaned vehicles to local school districts for their traffic education programs, and local experts who have visited driver education classes to share their knowledge about various topics such as tire safety, distracted driving, or DUI prevention; as well as business development organizations that have funded materials, equipment and learning tools for your TE program.

## HAVRE HAS IT!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (June 2022)

This past June the Havre community played gracious host to the MSU Northern Traffic Education Program, as it has each year for nearly three decades.

While here, licensed teachers from around the state work with local high school students from the Havre High School summer traffic education program to cut their teeth as both behind-the-wheel and in-classroom instructors. Our MSU Northern students rely on Havre students to learn and the high school's generosity helps aspiring teachers across the state.

This summer highlighted even more generosity from businesses in your town. Two traffic educators went out to scout new driving routes as an assignment for our college class. Unfortunately, a combination of inaccurate GPS directions, rain and adults not from the area set the scenario for a muddy, gumbo disaster with a Ford Fusion buried to its axles.

Two Havre natives tried to rescue the stuck vehicle to no avail. Finally, E-1 Towing thankfully sucked the Fusion from the mud prison. The car owner drove to the college only to hear terrible noises coming from the undercarriage. Luckily, Tire Rama immediately opened a scheduled slot, fixed the car and donated all the labor to send the MSUN student on his way.

A similar gesture of Havre kindness was performed days later as the class instructor's car screeched with metallic grating while backing up during parallel parking practice. Havre Ford's service department agreed to inspect the troubled Ford Edge an hour later. A rock was removed from a tire shield at no charge after an hour's work.

That small town feel where people are willing to help each other is refreshing, and helps us set a tone in the class our instructors will take with them as they fan back out across the state to pay it forward. Over the last couple of weeks our students were helped on the roadway numerous times by well-meaning Havreites. Over the next several years, our student instructors will teach their students to behave in the same way, spreading these positive traits across both geography and time.

We'd like to thank the community for sharing their roads, their help, and being our host. Here's to 30 more good years ahead. Havre has it.

Sincerely,  
Steffani Grogan  
MSU Northern Traffic Education Instructor

## Take the Online CDTP Refresher

*Is it okay to reprint a learner license for a student who lost their first one? How many times can I give the knowledge exam? When does the six months of GDL practice begin—with the TEP or Learner License date?*

These questions and many more are asked by teachers who call the OPI Traffic Education office for answers. But our free, online Hub course is available to answer these questions 24/7!

If you haven't taken the **CDTP Refresher Course** yet, please spend an hour to refresh your CDTP knowledge. **One renewal unit can be earned upon course completion.** And you can take it again a year later, if you want.

This course will update instructors on staying CDTP certified, students' eligibility to participate, what to do when you have a special ed or disabled student wanting to take driver education, Driver License application completion, and how to properly administer and record CDTP knowledge and road tests. It includes helpful resources to manage the CDTP part of driver education, with TEDRS tips, too.

To view the course, visit the OPI Teacher Learning Hub at <https://learninghub.mrooms.net/>. Log in or create a new account and use "CDTP" as the Enrollment Key. If you have any questions contact Dwight Nelson at 406-444-4396 or LeAnn Haas at 406-444-4432.

*OPI also wants you to know . . . . .*

The **student's birthdates** given at registration must be validated and checked for accuracy on driver license applications and OPI Student Lists.

The **GDL six-month practice period begins with the TEP date** (when the student starts driving with their teacher) and the Learner License is valid for a whole year, giving students plenty of time to practice before applying for a restricted license.

The vision test that is required for issuance of a learner license is ALSO required for all students before they begin in-vehicle instruction with their teacher. **Please make sure all students have had their vision checked before they get behind the wheel.**

Contact **Dwight Nelson**, TE State Director, by e-mail at [dwight.nelson@mt.gov](mailto:dwight.nelson@mt.gov) or call the OPI Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4396 or at 406-444-4432 with any questions about Teen Driver Education in Montana. You can also visit <http://www.opi.mt.gov/DriverEd> for additional resources and information.



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*Return Service Requested*



## 2023 Montana Traffic Education Conference

April 23-24-25 ~ Billings Hotel & Convention Center

Look for more detailed conference information in the winter/spring newsletters and on the MTEA website at [www.mteaonline.org](http://www.mteaonline.org).

The 2023 ADTSEA conference will be held July 16-19 in Wichita, Kansas. This conference always provides a wealth of information and an opportunity to network with other professionals from across the United States. Remember, MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$500 per member to offset conference costs. Even if you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization. For more information, check it out at [www.adtsea.org](http://www.adtsea.org).

**ADTSEA**  
American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association