

Safety Breaks!

Issue

- Seatbelt usage rate for 10-14 year olds only 67%
- Drivers Education Funding has been cut dramatically, reducing availability for many families due to region and finances.
- NHTSA pushing for road safety education for pre-teen population.

Program Purpose

- Post booster seats and pre drivers education KS youth had a gap in road safety education.
- Increase seat belt usage and decrease roadway injury and death.
- Bring fun into road safety education at this time that youth are still excited and interested in learning about becoming a driver.

Historical Background

- Conducted focus groups in 7 schools across KS requesting information for how youth want to learn. Overwhelming answer was games.
- Formed working group including Kansas Department of Transportation, Safe Kids Kansas, Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office and Regional Prevention Center.



Fitting in with Kansas Education

- Met with member of Kansas Department of Education for approval of program and Health Education standards that were met.
- Met with educators to test the level of understanding of lesson wording, activities, homework, etc.

Process

- Each member of working committee took on one section of the curriculum covering: Occupant Protection, In and Around Car Safety, Aggressive/Distracted/Drowsy driving, Road Rules (information about what to do around emergency vehicles, animals and inclement weather) and Underage Drinking Prevention.

Process Cont.

- ALTEC, an educational gaming company based out of the University of Kansas provided technical work in development of on-line game, Kansas Challenge.



Process Cont.

- An Educator Equipment Kit was created which provides the educator with all instructions, handouts, game items, pre/post test, etc. for the entire weeks lessons.
- Kits are available for checkout through KTSRO free of charge.

Kit Contents

- Letters of introduction to educators and parents
- Lesson objectives
- Materials needed (all materials provided by KTSRO)
- Fact Sheets
- Lesson games to reinforce facts
- Homework geared to open lines of communication between youth and caregiver about road safety



Implementation and Awareness

- Program was released in September of 2009 with a media event.
- KTSRO sent information via email to contact database of over 2,550 individuals.
- KDOT sent information via Twitter.
- Coordinated School Health, through the KS Department of Education promoted program through e-newsletter.
- Promoted at KS School Administrators, KS Driver Education, KS PTA, KS EMS and KS School Nurse conferences.

Evaluation

- Pre and Post tests are administered asking one question from each lesson area.
- Results are being tabulated regarding increase in correctly answered questions from pre to post test
- Results are being tabulated as to which questions are most commonly answered correctly and most commonly missed, allowing for restructuring of curriculum as necessary.
- KTSRO is actively seeking funding for on-line gaming evaluation component providing additional information.

- Student Pre-Test

1. How old should you be before riding in the front seat?
a. 8 b. 10 c. 13 d. 15
2. What should you wear every time you go for a bike ride?
a. Helmet b. Bright, colorful clothing c. Shoes d. All the Above
3. Will drinking caffeine keep you awake on a long car ride?
a. Yes b. No
4. How old do you have to be before you can legally consume alcohol?
a. 13 b. 15 c. 18 d. 21
5. What time of day are deer most likely to be moving about?
a. Early morning- still dark b. Dusk and dawn c. Noon
d. Early afternoon

First Year Results

- SafetyBreaks! has been taught in 136 Kansas classrooms since September of 2009.
- Curriculum has earned national attention with several other states requesting information on implementation in their own states.
- With additional funding SafetyBreaks! will be modified to a national platform allowing other states to implement without being Kansas centered.