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.
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?
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.