

CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XXII, No. 4 - Dec. 2012

Recommendations to California Strategic Highway Safety Plan

By Jerry Gaines, CASE Past President

The SHSP Challenge Area 6 (Young Drivers area of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan) is focused on seeking efforts by policy makers to reduce young drivers' fatalities and injuries. SHSP committee member Steve Block from the Auto Club of Southern California has submitted proposals to the SHSP directed toward the goals of Challenge Area 6 to reduce fatalities and injuries to youthful drivers. Earlier the SHSP committee agreed to seek a reduction of 15% of these fatalities and injuries by 2020.

Highlights of Steve's proposals include the following:

1. Impose negligent-operator points for GDL teens violating safety belt laws.
2. Impose negligent-operator points for GDL teens violating GDL restrictions (passenger and night driving limitations).
3. Eliminate citation dismissals for teens who attend Traffic Violator School.
4. Prohibit teens from using cell phones and other electronic devices in the vehicle while covered by GDL (except in cases of emergency).
5. Develop a system of "contingent advancement" (maintain a "clean" driving record before obtaining a full driver license).
6. Increase awareness of the severity of fines and penalties for violating GDL restrictions.
7. Extend GDL so that it does not automatically end at age 18 (i.e., 1-year driving restrictions would continue until a full twelve months from the time the GDL is issued if after age 17).

The SHSP is discussing these proposals in the coming weeks. CASE members and others who have thoughts about them can send their thoughts to me, a member of the SHSP committee at jgaines852@aol.com so that I may include them in future meetings where these recommendations are discussed. At some point the committee may forward some or all of them to the steering committee for further consideration.

Survey Shows Most Licensed Teen Drivers Still Text While Driving

A State Farm Insurance survey, conducted earlier this year by Harris Interactive, shows the majority of teens with driver's licenses admit to texting while driving, despite the widespread attention surrounding the dangers of this risky practice. The survey was conducted by telephone in the United States among 652 14-17 year olds, including 280 who have a driver's license or permit. These results come from a follow-up to a 2010 State Farm survey, and the numbers are virtually unchanged. Key findings in the 2012 survey include:

Texting vs. Drinking and Driving – Teens Aren't Getting the Message

Despite academic research indicating the consequences of texting while driving can be as severe as drunk driving, some teens still don't see it that way. In the survey, fewer teens view texting while driving as leading to fatal consequences as compared to drinking while driving. Of 14- to 17-year-olds who intend to have or already have a driver's license, the survey found that 35 percent strongly agree that if they regularly text and drive they will be killed someday. In contrast, the majority of teens, 57 percent, strongly agree that regularly drinking while driving will be fatal.



The survey also showed that more teens think they could get into an accident when drinking while driving versus texting while driving. In the survey, of these same teens, 63 percent strongly agree they will get into an accident if they regularly text and drive. This compares with 83 percent who strongly agree they will get into an accident if they regularly drink and drive.

Parents Play a Vital Role

The survey affirms the vital role parents play in keeping their new drivers safe behind the wheel. Teens who refrain from texting while driving were much more likely to report having frequent talks with their parents about safe driving. In the survey, more teens who never text and drive talk to their parents very often or sometimes about driving (82%) compared to teens who do text and drive (67%). "The conversation should not end when teens get their license," said Chris Mullen, Director of Technology Research at State Farm. "We know that ongoing parental involvement in the learning process is key to keeping teen drivers safe behind the wheel."

Sharing the Road with Bicyclists

The Adam Little Foundation has developed a comprehensive unit on Sharing the Road with Bicyclists. The unit includes a lesson plan with objectives and content specific to sharing the road with bicyclists. The lesson plan is accompanied with a class presentation in PowerPoint, which can be utilized by driver education teachers in the classroom.

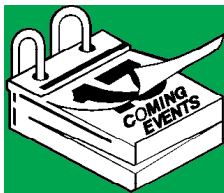
The Adam Little Foundation was founded in memory of Adam Little, a cyclist from Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, who was struck and killed by a distracted driver as he commuted to work.

Although both the lesson plan and PowerPoint presentation are specific to North Carolina, the materials can easily be adapted for California.

The lesson plan and PowerPoint may be downloaded from the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association website: <http://adtsea.org>

Teacher Preparation Courses

For information on Driver Education teacher prep courses in the Northern California and Riverside areas, contact Anna Maria Toma at UC Riverside School of Extended Education (951) 827-1661.



CASE Calendar

Dec. 2012 - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month (3D). Contact: www.nhtsa.gov/StopImpairedDriving

March 16, 2013 - 61st Annual CASE Conference, Hyatt Place Sacramento/Rancho Cordova, Rancho Cordova, CA. Hotel reservations: (916) 635-4799 ext. 5103 (ask for the *CASE Conference rate*).

April 2013 - National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Contact: www.distraction.gov

May 2013 - National Youth Traffic Safety Month. Contact: www.noys.org

July 13-15, 2013 - NSSP Annual Teen Leadership Conference, Double Tree by Hilton, Portland, Maine. Contact: www.adtsea.org

July 14-17, 2013 - ADTSEA Conference, Double Tree by Hilton, Portland, Maine. Contact: www.adtsea.org



CASE Newsletter

Published by the California Association
for Safety Education

Richard Mikulik, Editor

25 Shelbourne Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

E-mail: casemembership@sbcglobal.net

CASE Web Site: www.casewebsite.org

2013 CASE Conference

The 61st Annual CASE Conference will be held at the Hyatt Place Sacramento/Rancho Cordova hotel, Saturday March 16, 2013, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The hotel is located at 10744 Gold Center Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

The conference registration fee is \$125 for CASE members and \$165 for non-members. A conference registration form is provided below and is also available on the CASE website at www.casewebsite.org

For those staying Friday or Saturday nights at the hotel, the room rate is \$79.00 per night. A buffet breakfast and omelet bar is included if you stay at the hotel.

The hotel reservations number is (916) 635-4799 ext. 5103. Ask for the *CASE Conference rate*.

2013 CASE Conference Registration Form

Registration must be received no later than February 23, 2013

Mail check to: CASE Conference, 25 Shelbourne Place, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name: _____ School District/Business _____

Address: _____ Evening Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Fee Enclosed: \$ _____ **CASE members:** \$125 if received by February 23, 2013/ \$165 if received after February 23. **Non-members:** \$165 if received by February 23/\$205 if received after February 23. *The non-member fee includes a one-year CASE membership.*

School District Purchase Orders not accepted (if your school district is paying for registration, a district check must be sent with this registration form attached).