

## Nebraska Teens in the Driver Seat 2018-2019

**What is Teens in the Driver Seat?** Teens in the Driver Seat® is a teen driven peer-to-peer educational program that focuses solely on traffic safety and addresses all major driving risks for this age group. Teens, along with a sponsor, help shape the program and are responsible for implementing it.



**How do schools participate?** Through generous funding from the Nebraska Highway Safety Office and Drive Smart Nebraska Coalition partners, this program is available at **no cost** to Nebraska high schools. Schools just need to fill out an application to be considered, which can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/PublicHealth/InjuryPrevention/Pages/MotorVehicle.aspx>. Participating schools are provided technical assistance, materials and grant opportunities to support their TDS program. Schools will be supported in every way possible to have a successful program.



**Why participate?** TDS provides a great opportunity to make a difference and save lives! With car crashes the leading cause of death for Nebraska teens, this program can have a huge impact on your school and community.

**How do schools make an impact?** Start by having fun educating your school about the five major risks to teen drivers: alcohol, driving at night/fatigue, speeding/racing, distractions (cell phone use, texting, and passengers) and not wearing a seat belt. TDS brings together young drivers, parents, teachers, school administrators and other stakeholders to reduce teen-related crashes. The TDS program is designed to address both awareness and behavior by using peer pressure in a positive and productive direction. And best of all, it works! In Nebraska, TDS schools are seeing increased seat belt use and lowered distracted driving.

**What do participating schools have to do?** **First**, schools (students, administrators, teachers, advisors) have to be passionate about making a difference in the lives of teen drivers. Schools need a committed group of 10 to 12 student representatives and an adult teacher/sponsor to get the program up and running. Student representatives can be existing student groups such as the student council or FCCLA, or it can be a combination of students who create a new group altogether. **Second**, to be considered for this project, interested students and staff sponsors must submit a brief application. **Third**, selected schools will start getting the message out during the school year using TDS activities and materials. Activities done are reported online and count toward **earning CA\$H for your school!** Most of all, **HAVE FUN!** Go to [t-driver.com](http://t-driver.com) to see what other schools have already done.

**How?** Schools selected to participate in Teens in the Driver Seat will start activities early in the 2018-2019 school year. The University of Texas A&M- Texas Transportation Institute works closely with the Nebraska Injury Prevention Program to make this a success in our state. Schools will be provided a resource kit which contains **cool** materials to carry out TDS activities and technical assistance.



**This program is proudly supported by the Drive Smart Nebraska Coalition, Nebraska Highway Safety Office, AAA Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Injury Prevention Program.**

For more information or questions, please contact Jeanne Bietz, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Injury Prevention Program at [Jeanne.bietz@nebraska.gov](mailto:Jeanne.bietz@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-0361.