

Parents' driving matters most, say police!

Do you believe that your teenage driver has only learned all of your good driving habits?

That's how Chief William Morvay of the New Middletown, Ohio, Police department responded to a recent survey by the I Promise Program – a teen safe driving initiative that is sweeping across North America.

Police across the United States and Canada were asked by email to respond to one question:

If there were just one important message that you would like to deliver to parents of new teen drivers, what would it be?

Throughout the 101 replies, police were clear that they wanted parents to appreciate their own role in their teen's driving. Many police clearly stated that parents cannot take a "do as I say, not as I do" approach to reinforcing safe driving behavior. Rather, parents have a direct responsibility to promote teen safe driving by demonstrating safe driving themselves.

"Police are not only interested in teen driver safety, but the affect on families and themselves of tragedies involving teens," explains Gary Direnfeld, Executive Director of the I Promise Program. "Police are only motivated by community safety and know first hand the consequence of improper road use."

As an Officer from Missouri put it, "The hardest part of the job a Patrolman faces is not chasing down criminals or making arrests. Rather it is informing a family that they have lost a loved one in a traffic crash on our roadways."

In addition to being a good role model, police want parents of new teen drivers to establish a set of rules for use of the vehicle that includes clear consequences for violations. In so doing, police want parents to impress upon their young driver that driving is a privilege and not a right. Given parental responsibility, parents should also know the whereabouts, destination and return time each and every time the teen takes the car. As Chief Ken Robertson of the Hamilton Police Department puts it, "Always set an example in the way you drive and live your life, and establish clear guidelines for teens to follow."

So what would Police like to tell parents of new teen drivers? The top 8 answers are:

1. Set rules and expectations – make a contract for use of the car.
2. Remember, you are a role model – hopefully for the better.
3. Monitor your teen's plans and whereabouts – communicate.
4. Slow down – don't speed.

I Promise Program, Inc.
20 Suter Crescent, Dundas, Ontario, Canada L9H 6R5
(905) 628-4847 www.ipromiseprogram.com

5. Buckle up.
6. Don't drink and drive nor be a passenger if the driver has been drinking.
7. Forbid or at least limit the number of teen passengers.
8. Don't buy your teen a car, but if you must make it an older model and definitely not something sporty or fast.

Lastly, Chief Michael Courville (Ret.) Past President Texas Police Chiefs Association reminds parents that it is OK to set strict rules and says, "It's better to be called a mean parent, than not a parent at all!"

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This survey was conducted by the I Promise Program – a teen safe driving initiative that promotes parents as role models by entering into a mutual safe driving contract with their teen. To provide accountability, a rear window decal is then affixed to the vehicle. The decal displays a toll free number and the question, "Am I driving safely?" Calls are received by a call center and responses are sent by letter only back to the family. Youth, parents, community members, police and interested stakeholders in traffic safety have participated in developing this program.

See: www.ipromiseprogram.com

Contact Information:

Gary Direnfeld, MSW, Executive Director
I Promise Program
20 Suter Crescent,
Dundas, Ontario, Canada
L9H 6R5

(905) 628-4847
gary123@sympatico.ca
www.ipromiseprogram.com

Here is the complete list of responses from what police across North America would like to tell parents of teen drivers:

1	<p>Driving is a tremendous responsibility for a teen to assume. Please be sure your teen receives proper drivers education prior to becoming a licensed driver and carefully audit their performance. Never look at the teenage driver as a relief from your responsibility as a parent. True it takes some of the burden off of the parent for the teen to run errands but it increases their exposure to accident or injury. Do not rush them or let them rush into responsibility they are not ready to assume.....Selfishly, don't force upon me that long walk to your front door to deliver a message you prayed never to hear.</p>
2	<p>Not EVERY kid needs a car. There seems to be some misconception that when a kid turns 16 they are ENTITLED to a car. I don't buy it. I purchased my first car with my own money, and paid for the insurance. I doubt most kids are going to drive as crazy when they know they have to pay for the car, and the insurance themselves. If your kid thinks they have to have a car, either make them pay/work for the car, and the insurance.</p>
3	<p>The best advice for any parent is to establish strong values of responsibility in your children before they enter their teens. Always set an example in the way you drive and live your life, and establish clear guidelines for teens to follow.</p>
4	<p>I would tell the parents that they need to demonstrate defensive driving. It is not enough to tell them to drive defensively. You need to show them. Drive sober, minimize distractions (i.e. cell phones and loud stereos), show them the impact of speed and distance, and how to anticipate worst-case scenarios.</p>
5	<p>My response is a simple one. "Make the teen follow the rules of the road. Ride with the teen to see what areas need improvement. Make a contract with the teen that if he/she violates the rules a penalty must be paid. Grounded and loss of driving privileges." This is tough to do, but it is far better to do it now than to face the serious accident.</p>
6	<p>New drivers should not be driving high-powered sports cars. If kids have the power to race and spin tires....they will.</p>
7	<p>Talk and play with your kids. Do things with them. React quickly and positively when you see warning signs. Keep your kids busy and involved with other responsible kids and parents and organizations. Get involved. You will have less free time, but that's okay. Know where your kids are going every time they leave the house. Check on them periodically to see where they really are and what they are really doing. Set and keep high standards. Have consequences for non-compliance. Go the extra mile as a parent and realize the blessing.</p>
8	<p>The message to parents of new teen drivers would be: A motor vehicle can</p>

	<p>be a dangerous piece of equipment. Do not let being "cool" and driving in a reckless manner to "show off", be your, your friends, or some other innocent person's demise.</p>
9	<p>If I could send a message to parents it would include the following: Remember the inexperience of your student driver. It is important for you as a parent to be involved in training your child to drive in all kinds of conditions. It is important that your child not be distracted during the early driving experience. Stats show that the more kids are in a car the more likely it is to be involved in an accident. Restrict the student from passengers fro 6 months to a year.</p> <p>Avoid the power car. Kids will push things to their limits. If given a car capable of going 100, at some point they'll try it. Keep first car simple and keep it in parent's name. Control of driving can result from control of use.</p>
10	<p>The one message is simple. <i>Buckle up...I am tired of seeing dead people thirty feet from the vehicle.</i></p>
11	<p>My response to your survey has two components. The parent must set the example for proper driving behaviour for their teens. I think that to a large extent, their behaviour shapes the choices that their teens will make, often unconsciously.</p> <p>Secondly, they must hold their teens to this standard by being aware of how the teen has chosen to drive and applying their own sanctions for failing to follow. This must occur whether the information on misbehaviour comes to them from an incident involving law enforcement or by another reliable means such as peers or other community members.</p>
12	<p>"You have to drive defensively and watch out for the mistakes other drivers make. Over the years you will see a lot of other drivers make mistakes. Simply being in the right doesn't make being in an accident any less dangerous."</p>
13	<p>Parents would be asked to set and be the best example they can, by driving all the time every time, the same way they drove the day they passed their driving test. Monitor closely their child's driving habits and activities.</p> <p>Help by paying close attention as they are driving, drive the speed limit, don't drink and drive, and always wear your seat belt.</p> <p>The hardest part of the job a Patrolman faces is not chasing down criminals or making arrests. Rather it is informing a family that they have lost a loved one in a traffic crash on our roadways.</p> <p>If there is one aspect of the job Patrolman would like to do away with, this is it. With your help and the help of your friends and relatives, we can come close to doing away with this aspect of our job.</p> <p>As drivers you can help us reduce traffic fatalities in Missouri by doing ust four simple things</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · BUCKLE YOUR SEAT BELT · DON'T SPEED · DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE · PAY ATTENTION TO THE JOB OF DRIVING
14	As a police officer and as the father of teenage children I offer the following: "Slow down and don't tailgate. I instruct them on the three second rule - leave three seconds of space between you and the car in front of you." Hope this helps.
15	Impress upon them the dangers of speeding and to know where their children are at all times!
16	<p>I wish I could boil it down to one important message. However, there are far to many issues involving teen drivers for me to reasonably do so. Having two teenage daughters, it becomes increasingly difficult to even begin to address all of the problems let alone deliver one important message.</p> <p>I guess if I were to deliver one message it would be don't ever drive after drinking (regardless of amount) and never get into a vehicle with someone who has been drinking.</p>
17	Parents don't let friends ride in car with new driver.
18	My message to parents is they should spend time, whether the child takes driver's education or not, with the young driver. Another words get in the vehicle with them while they are driving and let them know that driving a car is a very serious responsibility. That you have to be alert and paying attention especially for other inattentive drivers. To be a good driver you not only have to be alert yourself, but in most cases be a defensive driver to be a smart driver. When driving on long trips have plans made to make rest stops and be familiar with driving routes or detours. And last never ever drink alcohol or take drugs, including prescription drugs that cause drowsiness while driving a vehicle.
19	Don't turn teens loose with the car. Establish reasonable rules and standards you wish them to follow. Let them know the rules and what the consequences are if they break them... Be consistent.
20	Parents can do a lot to instill the sense of responsibility by reminding their teen drivers that the license is a privilege, and can be taken away at any time, that showing you can follow the rules means you will be a safer driver, if you do not follow the rules at home, I will not sign for your license, because you will not follow the rules that keep you and others safe. DO NOT be afraid to say NO!
21	<p>Don't buy your new driver a "fast" car. In other words, if you are going to buy them a car, buy them a conservative car that doesn't indulge the urge to "put the pedal to the metal". A family type car. No matter how much they whine about wanting a "cool" car, don't give in.</p> <p>Pay attention to the types of cars driven by their friends. Don't allow</p>

	<p>them to go out with another teen who is driving a "fast" car. These types of cars encourage irresponsible driving, and in a peer pressure situation, even the best driver will try to be cool around friends.</p> <p>Most of all, and the best advice for parents of teens in general: Don't try to be friends with your kids. Impose discipline, and be the boss. Better a live teen that hates you than a dead one who thinks you are a "cool" parent.</p>
22	The question I would like to ask. Do you believe that your teenage driver has only learned all of your good driving habits?
23	Parents are <u>still</u> responsible for their children. If they allow their children to drive, then the parents remain responsible for the outcome (hopefully the teenager would have insurance under the parent's umbrella as well). Parents MUST take the initiative to set the proper examples, to properly teach, and to maintain control of their children's actions.
24	Slow Down, do not drink, pay attention and do not over drive their ability to handle a car and the dynamics upon a vehicle while moving at high speeds.
25	Your children want and need to know you care about their safety and well being, especially as a driver or a passenger of a car. Restrictions on where they drive, when they drive, who they are with, and a curfew help deliver that message. Accordingly, discipline for failure to abide by the rules (withdrawal of driving privilege) and expanding the rules as responsible driving is demonstrated will help deliver that message. Don't assume they are responsible, demand it.
26	<p>As a parent, I have taught my children the difference between right and wrong. I try to stay constantly involved in their lives and to be there if they need someone to talk with.</p> <p>Unfortunately, teens are under tremendous pressure to conform to their peers' expectations. Those expectations usually are slanted to areas of conduct that they themselves would never participate. I have seen what happens when teens cave into peer pressure. The result can be anything from being given a citation by a police officer, to being picked up by the coroner.</p> <p>If there were one message I would give parents, tell your children that you love and cherish them. Tell them you trust them, if you are satisfied that you have done all you can as a parent, then let go, every bird must eventually stretch their wings.</p>
27	Do not let your teen drive with anyone in the vehicle for the first year of driving. After the first year only one in the vehicle and never anyone in the back seat. A first year teen driver can only handle the task of driving, there are enough distractions outside the vehicle, which you cannot control, but the ones inside you can. Better to be called a mean parent, than not a parent at all!!!

28	I will not drink and drive nor will I ride with anyone who has and I will wear my safety belt at all times.
29	My message to parents of new teen drivers is an outcome of your statement concerning the survey of driving schools. The driving schools have a very short time to "introduce" drivers to their responsibility to act properly when driving. As with any other segment of a child's life, the parents cannot rely on other instructors to insure the "continuing education" of their children. The teen driver's conduct as they learn the rules of the road and mature in their new privilege to drive is the ultimate responsibility of the parent. Parents need to be alert to any possible problems and control every facet of the teen drivers conduct as the teen begins driving.
30	<p>Do not give a new driver a free hand to run the roads. Know where they are going and who they are with at all times. Make sure they are ready to accept the responsibilities of safe driving. Do not let them make needless driving trips. A parent or other responsible adult (not sibling or older friend) should ride with them for a period of time to observe their driving techniques. It is the responsibility of the parent (s) to set the example when they are driving particularly when teens are passengers. Never allow a new driver or older teen to control the parent by jumping under the wheel. Make sure they (teens/young adults) understand that driving is a privilege and a great responsibility, which can be taken away. Never allow alcohol to be used period when mixed with driving and set the example! If teens get tickets, see that they pay the price and start with the first one! Do this by making them pay the fines and with loss of driving privileges!</p>
31	<p>46.2-335 of the VA state code: A learner's permit may be issued to a Virginia resident at age 15 and 6 months and shall not authorize the transportation of more than one non-family passenger under the age of 18 except in a drives education course. The driver is prohibited from driving between midnight and 4:00 AM. A driver's license will not be issued until the under-age 18 driver has driven for at least 40 hours, of which 10 hours are at nighttime.</p> <p>46.2-335.2 Persons under age 18 issued a learner's permit must hold the permit for a minimum of 9 months or until they reach age 18.</p> <p>ALL persons under the age of 18 must have completed a state-approved drivers education course and (36 periods) and in-car (14 periods: 7 observation and 7 hours driving behind the wheel training. the instruction must include alcohol safety education and drug abuse awareness components.</p>
32	Parents must stay involved with their teen drivers. It's requires constant monitoring and

	<p>being able to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.WHO are they with 2.WHAT are they doing 3.WHEN are they leaving and returning 4.WHERE are they going 5.WHY are they going there 6.HOW are they getting there 7.HOW MANY similar to #1 but expands the idea of total number of passengers <p>Trust, but verify. Occasionally run a couple of 'tests' to insure information provided by your teens is accurate. Be up front. Let your teens know you'll be checking on them.</p>
33	<p>I think the most important message for parents and youth in driving is conveying the knowledge that upon obtaining a license or by completing a driving course it's only the beginning of the process. All drivers need experience and with experience come mistakes. We have to learn how to make our mistakes while minimizing the more deleterious aspects. Either by law or understanding we should encourage new drivers to gain their experience under or within preferred circumstances. Driving on major highways, at night or with numerous people in the vehicle all increase the odds that mistakes may have a higher price. In short it's almost certain that mistakes will be made we should do all we can to have them occur in a manner where the educational component can be carried forward. Avoiding mistakes or safe driving is always best but youth should be equipped with the knowledge that experience is necessary and better gained under more favorable circumstances.</p>
34	<p>Make your child responsible for their own actions, pay for the gas they use, and their insurance, and emphasize accountability.</p>
35	<p>My message would be to the teens: "Be the generation who values safety and respect of everyone (whether they are using the roads or off to the side in their homes). Respecting the rules of the road is respecting your neighborhood.</p> <p>As for the parents, there is not much hope in changing their driving habits and becoming the role models they should be (most of the tickets I issue are to parents driving their kids to school at nearly double the 40 km/h school zone limit).... but better late than never! If you are part of the problem you have no right to complain; Be part of the solution.</p> <p>A couple of years ago a teen driver killed a skateboarder on a 40 km/h residential street; investigators calculated his traveling speed at 104 km/h. My interpretation is that he was a passenger in his parent's car for 16 years, being driven at 70-80 km/h in the 40 km/h zone: that was normal. This teen (like any other teen) wants to speed and will speed not from the posted limit but from what is normal. In the same breath, every driver on the road is in a rush and wants to get ahead of the next car: if you drive no more than speed limit that driver only needs to exceed it by a bit; if you are driving 10 or 15 km/h that driver now will speed that much more to accomplish the task ... Think about every bit of your contribution to the problem! (I am not defending the other driver's actions)</p>
36	<p>Don't turn loose of you children to drive alone too soon, closely monitor where they are allowed to drive (city, freeway, etc) and no passengers...none. until they have significant</p>

	experience. Other kids and their stereo are too much of a distraction for new drivers.
37	"SPEED KILLS" Due to inexperience and their newfound freedom behind the wheel, teen drivers are more apt to be involved in speeding related accidents, resulting in death and serious injury.
38	The answer is this - Know where your kids are and who they are with!
39	Ensure that occupants of your vehicle are wearing their seat belt properly. Typically, inexperienced drivers tend to overestimate their ability as a driver and underestimate the demand placed on them. New drivers don't consider human factors such as the rate at which they individually process information or their specific reaction time. That's why drivers exceed the speed limit. Therefore, you must anticipate that the driver will be involved in a crash at some point in their life. Wearing their seat belt properly will dramatically improve their odds of sustaining less serious injuries or just surviving. If they're wearing their seat belt, my second choice would be "slow down!" Young drivers don't realize how their speed has an affect on all types of crashes. The faster you're traveling, the more impact energy you generate. Many motorists believe they are good drivers and, for the most part, they probably are. But, our statistics show us that two-thirds of all crashes involve one "at-fault" driver and one "not-at-fault" driver. Just because you're a good driver doesn't mean you won't be involved in a crash.
40	Set guidelines; know who your kids are with and where they are. When a kid reaches the driving age a whole new freedom overcomes them and peer pressure really increases. The privilege to drive is not a gift to "cruise" the streets.
41	Parents need to take more control and not to give such liberal use of their motor vehicle to the new teenaged driver. With this in mind, instruct and enforce that your new teenaged driver does not take as passengers their teenaged friends. This is when most new teenagers drivers will feel the "need" to show off and drive in a fashion that is unsafe and too fast. They often will be paying more attention to their teenaged friends rather than the road and what's going on outside the motor vehicle.
42	Monitor your teens driving and driving habits. Make sure all restrictions pertaining to a "Jr. operator" license are being followed. Do not be a Do as I say, not as I Do" parent. Attach a note to your vehicle registration addressed to "All Police Officers and Troopers". Ask them to call you and advise if they stop one of your children. Most Officers will be more than willing to do this and it shows you care! If your teen knows it there then this may also give them a second thought to inappropriate driving.
43	In reference to your survey question, my advice would be to monitor who your children are hanging around with and a set strict limits for the driving privileges.
44	The ability to drive is an adult privilege. The decisions you make while driving should be the decision of an adult, regardless of your age. The

	penalties for a poor decision will be as detrimental to your future as any poor decision by an adult.
45	When your child reaches the legal age of operating a motor vehicle, the decisions he or she makes when behind the wheel can affect many lives. This is a large amount of responsibly and needs the support and supervision of parents. Make sure your child buckles up and drives responsibly.
46	Children learn what they live and by example. Every day I see parents driving over the speed limit, tailgating and the like. Teenagers will not tolerate "do as I say not as I do". We need to start, in our own cars, instilling the driving behavior our children will demonstrate when they are behind the wheel. If I expect my kids to follow the rules and keep a promise, I had better do the same! Thanks for your program. I hope it reaches far and wide, the need for it is here.
47	"Use your seat belt, every time, all of the time in any car you are in."
48	I would advise parents to make sure their children wear seat belts 100% of the time they are driving. This habit of course starts at an early age, and seat belts save lives! Additionally I would stress the importance of obeying traffic laws, state mandated curfews for young new drivers, and do not allow peer pressure to dictate how your child drives a vehicle.
49	Driving is a privilege and not a right. Parents must clearly understand that they have an obligation as care takers to thoroughly educate their children on the consequences of poor decision making prior to allowing a teen to sit behind the wheel of a automobile. Unless a parent feels their child is mature enough to follow all the rules and regulations of the road, make intelligent decisions and utilize sound judgment while driving, they should never allow their children to take control of a vehicle.
50	A teenager's first experience at driving a car alone is terribly exciting. It is a rite of passage of sorts, tangible proof that a young person is reaching adulthood. Teens need to be aware that a car is not something to use for amusement, or horseplay. A moment's indiscretion can have a lifetime effect in terms of someone's life or serious injury. If they can keep in mind that part of growing is also acting responsibly, and in a manner consistent with the size and weight of the moving machine that a car is. It is particularly important that teens keep this in mind when they have friends in the car with them, since it is tempting to get caught up in things when you are in a group.
51	Communicate; keep an open dialogue with your teenage drivers. Effectively listen to your children and know what is important to them, and what they are doing in their lives. Everyday, kindly remind them of their obligations as a responsible driver, not to take risks. Parents should serve as role models and stress the importance of driving defensively, paying attention, and being alert

	to other drivers/vehicles on the highway. When carelessness and/or recklessness occurs by any person operating a motor vehicle, the vehicle becomes a 3000 to 5000 pound lethal weapon which is a tool that can injure, maim, or kill.
52	"16 year olds have more accidents of greater severity than 17 year olds who have more accidents of greater severity than 18 year olds. Look at a photo of yourself at 12 years of age. Do you think you've matured? Now pretend you are 22 and looking back at yourself at 16. Do you think you will be more mature? Give yourself a chance to see 22... slow down."
53	I don't believe that there is "one important message" to give to teen drivers. I believe that, like so many other principals that need to be taught to our youth as they grow, you must start when they are young. Here are some of the ideas that I think are worthy of trying. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cut out all articles of car crashes involving inexperienced drivers or accidents involving alcohol or drugs, place them in a folder and have them read the articles before they get there license. 2. Demonstrate good driving habits. Don't glide through a stop sign or speed with your kids in the car. Beyond the immediate dangers of these actions, children tend to learn more from watching than from lectures. If you are a safe driver your children will more likely be safe also.
54	Parents should speak with their children and reinforce common sense rules of the road to include never allowing themselves' to get into a situation where they are rushed for time, following too close, or being inattentive to their safe operation of a motor vehicle. Too often accidents are caused by being in a hurry, personal appearance alterations (shaving, lipstick, makeup), food consumption while driving or conversations with passengers or cell telephone usage. Emphasize the mandatory usage of seatbelts and restraints for all occupants of the vehicle.
55	Wear your seat belt and don't drink and drive. Follow these two rules and lives will be saved!
56	Let your teenagers know that driving is a privilege and make sure they understand that the privilege will be taken away if they drive unsafely. And then follow-through on that promise if the need arises. A parent-imposed driving suspension is a great wake-up call for teen drivers. Hold them accountable for their driving.
57	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teen drivers are much more likely to be in accidents. 2. Lethal accidents are much more likely to occur late at night.
58	"Practice, Practice, Practice.... Do not assume because they passed the test that they are ready to drive. Driving is a learned behavior; one that has to be practiced!"
59	Tell the teenage driver to be careful, respect other drivers, and obey the traffic laws, don't let peers pressure you into doing something that you can't change (then parents need to monitor the teenage driver closely).
60	Kids copy what their parents' do. Wear your seat belt, drive responsibly and

	drive anger-free!
61	The one message I would want to see given to the parents of teen drivers is: It is extremely important they have parents who role model good driving habits consistently and expect their teens to exhibit the same good driving behaviors.
62	Take the time to know where your children are going and who they are going with. Children should know there are serious consequences for motor vehicle offenses, such as losing the right to use a parent's car for a month for getting a speeding ticket etc. so they will be careful to avoid speeding and other dangerous driving practices, reducing the risk of serious injury should they be involved in a motor vehicle collision.
63	Buckle up and slow down.
64	I have been in law enforcement for 27 years and I am currently a traffic supervisor. I am also the father of two daughters who at one point were teen drivers. The one message, which I tried to convey to my daughters when they began to drive, was that there are serious consequences to their actions behind the wheel of a car. They have to understand the seriousness of driving a car and the repercussions of poor decisions.
65	Know what you as a parent can do to reduce young driver crashes.
66	DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.....If I could say one thing to kids that are of driving age it would be "if you have been drinking or the driver of the vehicle you are about to ride in has been drinking, DON'T GET IN THE VEHICLE!!!!!!". As a patrol officer I would rather you call me and I will take you home or call your parents and have them come pick you up. Either way is better than me going to tell them you are DEAD.
67	My best advice would be for them to wear their seats and stay focused on the activity at hand (DRIVING).
68	A parent should always know; Where their child is going, When they will be back, What they will be doing there and at all times in between, how many people will be riding with them and When they will be home. A parent should also give the child their itinerary in case an emergency arises. "Communication is the problem to be answered".
69	My message would be to lead by example. Drive safely, obey all laws and wear your safety belt when you have your children in the car. Make sure your kids are buckled up also. There is no better message than to lead by example from when the kids are babies to driving age. After they are at driving age and you have not set an example there is nothing left to say.
70	Parents need to remember that only they know the driving ability and maturity level of their children. If parents know their children are not as skilled at driving, as they should be, then additional training and parental involvement should be implemented. Driving schools are better than no training at all but ultimately, the parents should be assessing their child's driving abilities/knowledge and setting their driving privileges accordingly. Don't hesitate to take their driving privileges away when maturity becomes a factor. Parents need to demonstrate to their children that driving is a responsibility, and show them, as needed, that it is not their "right". Last but not least, the parents should

	<p>recognize that their children are watching <i>their</i> individual driving habits and they should set a good example for their children. Aggressive driving and “road rage” is increasing rapidly, and the examples set by parents will be long lasting with their children.</p>
71	<p>Relax take your time and enjoy the drive. Speeding will not make up lost time. Once it is gone it is never to return.</p>
72	<p>This message is both critical and complex. There are many issues that are important for parents to both remember and discuss with their teen drivers. Issues that are truly a matter of life and death. Common issues such as seatbelt safety, drinking and driving, and recklessness (speed contests). Probably though the message I would recommend is one that does not receive the press and attention that the aforementioned issues are given. My message is to instill in their teens that they are now making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. Driving a vehicle is a privilege and not an entitlement, as such it is something to be appreciated and earned. They must give driving their full measure of attention in that it is one of the most complex multi-task psycho-motor activities that most of us will ever undertake. It is something though that is so common, that it easily gets taken for granted and as such is not perceived as being as complex as it really is. Here is the crux of the whole message.... Pay attention to your driving. A split seconds distraction can have a lifetime of consequences. Over the past two years we have had several fatal accidents involving teen drivers that directly resulted from distraction and momentary lack of attention. Teens need to be reminded what a huge responsibility driving is, and parents need to hold them accountable. If they don't earn the privilege revoke it. Make it seem like it is something special, and maybe they will respect it.</p> <p>I know this is a long message, but there ya go.</p>
73	<p>Take as much time as possible with the teen teaching them to drive. It will take some of the worry off your shoulders.</p>
74	<p>Being a police officer I still wonder, why people don't buckle up or why people don't at least buckle up the ones they love. Many times I am approached by a child who tells me that mommy or daddy don't buckle up. I also hear about the many crashes that students have been involved in and some of these stories can heart breaking, especially when they advise that the individual involved in the crash was injured or fatally killed. It even harder when they say that the person injured or killed wasn't wearing a seat belt or wasn't properly placed in a car seat.</p> <p>Are you buckling up every time you get into your motor vehicle? Notice I didn't say "your car". Its important to buckle up no matter what type of vehicle you own. Every vehicle can be involved in a motor vehicle crash at any time. Statistics tell us that every time you get into a vehicle your chances increase for being involved in a crash. How many crashes have you been involved in? Statistics say you will encounter at least two crashes within your lifetime.</p> <p>Are you buckling up those you love? If adults properly restrained children from birth to age 15, we would save more than 600 additional children's lives and prevent an additional 182,000 serious injuries every year</p>

	<p>nationwide. Child safety seats, when installed properly, reduce the risk of death by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers. If we start buckling up children at birth, it will be a natural reaction to buckle up when they begin to drive. In 2000, 4,216 teens ages 16-19, died and thousands more were injured in traffic crashes nationwide. Fatality rates for teens are twice that of older drivers and the risk of crashes for teens is four times that of older drivers.</p> <p>Show you care by always wearing your safety belt properly, using both lap and shoulder belts - because traffic crashes can occur at any time. Most crashes usually happen close to home and on familiar roads.</p>
75	<p>My message would be: know where your kids are going and who they are with. Give them a cell phone to stay in contact with you. Good lines of communication are between teen drivers and their parents are imperative.</p>
76	<p>Realize that true teenage driver education is more than a one-time event conducted through a driver training class. To keep your child alive, a continuing education plan must be implemented, by the parent, to promote safe driving habits, solid decision-making and consequences for their failure to control unacceptable behavior.</p>
77	<p>Please tell Parents to always know where their child is driving. Ask questions, ride with them once in a while, know their habits and correct the bad ones.</p>
78	<p>The number one thing I would tell parents of new drivers to do is limit the distractions. Let your new driver take only one other person in the car per year that they have had their license. Make and enforce strict rules about cell phone use, and allow them to only take one CD in the car with them. No eating or drinking in the car while they are driving. Limit the distractions new drivers have so they can pay attention to their driving and stay safe.</p>
79	<p>Always ask who will be driving with your teen and where they are going.</p>
80	<p>Parents should impose guidelines and rules regarding the use of vehicles and enforce consequences should the rules be broken.</p>
81	<p>Although they are number one in our hearts, unfortunately they are number one in our fatality statistics.</p>
82	<p>Don't make it easy for your son/daughter to have access to vehicles. Allow them to earn the privilege of driving by displaying responsible behaviour before getting into a vehicle.</p>
83	<p>Be patient, but firm. Set rules for the use of vehicles and follow them through.</p>
84	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That parents be responsible role models for their teens by demonstrating and teaching them good driving habits at all times. 2. That parents should drive defensively and exhibit good attitudes in provoking circumstances in traffic (ie; Avoiding an opportunity for Road Rage).

	<p>3. That parents should always use their safety restraint while driving and encourage their teens to do the same.</p> <p>4. That parents should reiterate to their teens the fact that motor vehicle accidents involving teens are one of the major causes of teen deaths in America.</p> <p>5. That parents should encourage their teens to never drink (do drugs, etc.)and drive; it's a deadly combination.</p>
85	<p>Speed, impairing substances and motor vehicles make a deadly trio. Some parents take the approach that kids will be kids. Experimentation with alcohol and/or drugs should not be taken lightly. Kids that are allowed to experiment at home will use alcohol and/or drugs while away from home and then attempt to drive home or other locations. Many times this is late at night on unfamiliar roads. This leads to tragedy and heartache such as we investigated last year. A sign thrown from the vehicle, "You don't know the true meaning of life until it's over", brought the point home to not only the families; but the Police, Fire, Medical and Rescue works at the scene.</p>
86	<p>Don't take for granted that your child is going to come home at night. You are the parent and you have the right to know what your child is doing. Would you rather have an upset teen (it won't last long) that is alive or dead because you didn't do all you could do at the time. My message is harsh but it is harsh love that is going to save lives, especially your teens.</p>
87	<p>Teenagers need to be reminded they are not invincible. They need to get the "It can't happen to me" attitude out of their heads. No one starts off being a good driver; driving, like any other skill, takes a lot of practice. It takes time to become proficient at driving and recognizing hazardous situations. Last, but certainly not least, keep your foot off the gas. Speed is the one thing that constantly gets young drivers into trouble.</p>
88	<p>One of the things I stressed to my teenagers when they started driving was the criticalness of constantly being alert to their surroundings on the road. This means keeping your eyes on the road at all times and regularly glancing through the side and rear-view mirrors to see what is around you. Watching other drivers and anticipating what other drivers are going to do may prevent an accident from happening and even save your life.</p>
89	<p>Tell your children to buckle up, slow down, do not get into a motor vehicle being operated by a impaired driver and do not take drugs and or alcohol and drive.</p>
90	<p>Parents should ride with their children and make sure they are aware and familiar with the rules of the road and observe their driving to see what might need to be corrected. Parents should restrict also the operation of the vehicle until their new driver is comfortable in driving. They could put curfew on their children that might be more restrictive then local laws let the child show to them they can be responsible. Further set guidelines for their child to follow. For example let them know the consequences of driving or riding with someone involved in alcohol or illegal drugs consumption. Their responsibility and the legal consequences.</p>
91	<p>Parents must closely monitor their children's driving habits and not hesitate to pull their license by contacting the motor vehicle department. Close monitoring by parents and holding there children responsible for their actions will help insure they develop safe driving habits. Parents also must understand that peer pressure from their children's</p>

	friends, is the cause of many fatal and serious accidents. Peer pressure to take risks with a motor vehicle along with the introduction of alcohol is a deadly combination. Parents need to constantly talk to their children about the effects of peer pressure, not only when in a motor vehicle, but in everyday life along with the serious consequences of making poor decisions.
92	At least in our state, it would be to monitor their teen drivers behavior closely in adhering to the restrictions of the graduated license. Anecdotally I find parents are either apathetic or find it more convenient to let their son or daughter violate the restrictions. I get phone calls from parents trying to justify violations or find a loophole so their teen can violate the restrictions. Most of the time because it is more convenient. This goes hand in hand with driver distractions. Especially for new drivers.
93	Get your children a vehicle that is appropriate for them, not the street racing types.
94	Tell them to tell their children that they should drive the way they know they should-safe and sane, not the way their friends want them to.
95	Wear the seatbelt properly and not underneath the armpit
96	The #1 thing that is statistically most likely to kill or injure teens is speeding. Take their time & plan ahead.
97	"Drive To Arrive"
98	Have a zero tolerance on alcohol use.
99	Set a good example by driving defensively and alertly whenever your children are in the car. They are watching and learning from us long before their learners permit.
100	We would like to remind the parents of teen drivers to set the example for your teens. Too often teens learn bad driving habits from their parents and they are magnified in the teen driver due to inexperience. We would like to remind parents to set the example by using seatbelts, driving the posted speed limit, and more importantly, be courteous.
101	Know where your child is at all times! When that child drives from place to place make sure they buckle-up and are not drinking alcohol.