



STREET SMART:

A Children's Road Safety Education Program

ADE SUMMIT
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TODAY'S TOPICS

- **WHAT IS STREET SMART?**
- **THE NEED FOR STREET SMART**
- **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**
- **PROGRAM GOALS**
- **WHAT'S NEXT?**



WHAT IS STREET SMART?

- Free, ready-to-use, statewide road safety education program
- For pedestrians, passengers, bicyclists, and drivers
- 6-8th grade: launched 2025-26
- 9-12th grade: new for 2026-27
- Produced by ARDOT in partnership with ADE



THE PATH TO A K-12 ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

PHASE 1

Grades 6-8

Launched 2025-26

- Traffic signs & signals
- Pedestrian safety
- Bicycle safety
- Passenger safety
- Peer influence
- Seatbelts
- Distractions
- Bus safety

PHASE 2

Grades 9-12

Launching 2026-27

- Traffic laws & rules of the road
- Emergency preparedness
- Work zone safety
- Speeding
- Impaired driving
- Littering
- What to do if pulled over
- Sharing the road with pedestrians & bicyclists
- Commercial motor vehicles
- Roundabouts



PHASE 3
Grades K-5
coming soon!

THE NEED FOR STREET SMART

- Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for teens
- Distractions, speeding, and lack of seatbelt usage are prevalent issues among younger drivers
- Fills an existing gap in offerings – first program of its kind in Arkansas



THE DATA

UNSAFE DRIVING PRACTICES



NOT WEARING A SEAT BELT

Nationally,
53% of teenage
drivers who die
in crashes are
unbuckled²



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Nationally,
24% of drivers
(ages 15 - 18)
involved in
a fatal crash
had been
drinking²



DISTRACTED DRIVING

Teenage drivers
are **23 TIMES**
more likely to
be involved in a
crash when they
are **texting**²



SPEEDING & AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

In Arkansas,
23% of traffic
fatalities and
19% of serious
injuries involve
speeding or
aggressive
driving¹

¹ 2022-2027 Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)

² <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving>, 2023 data



CRASHES

IN ARKANSAS
BETWEEN 2016 - 2020

13%
OF ALL
FATALITIES¹

AND

18%
OF ALL
SERIOUS
INJURIES¹

INVOLVED
YOUNGER DRIVERS
(24 YEARS OR YOUNGER)

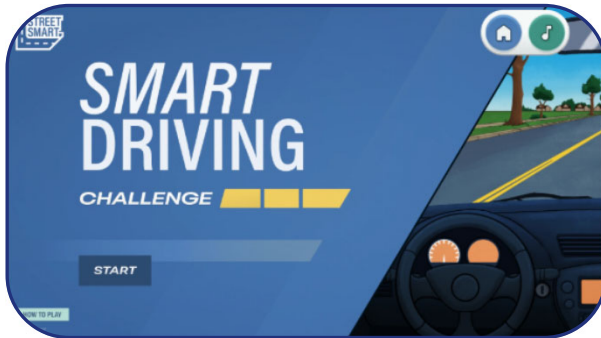
PROGRAM OVERVIEW



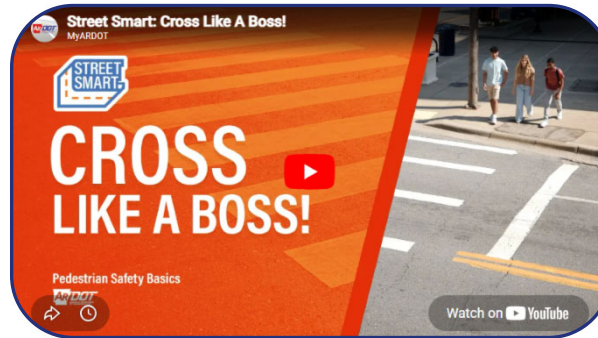
500+ MATERIALS
REQUESTS



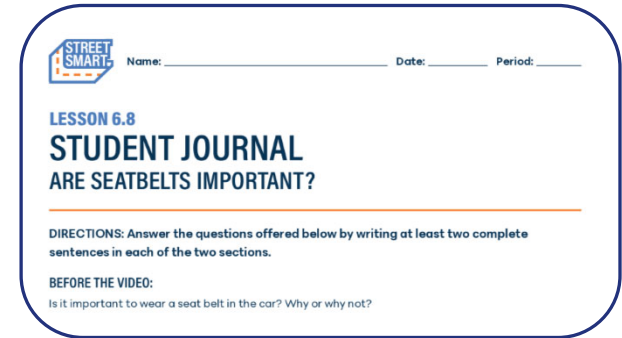
2 AWARDS FOR
CONTENT QUALITY



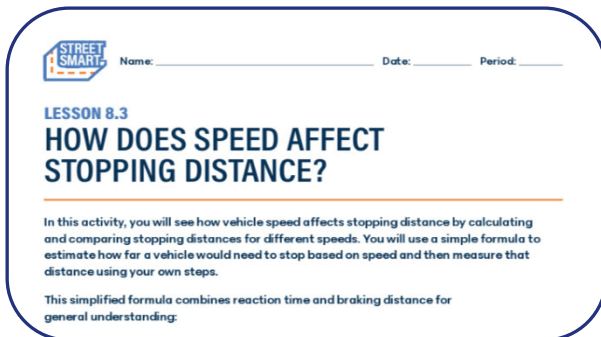
INTERACTIVE WEB GAMES



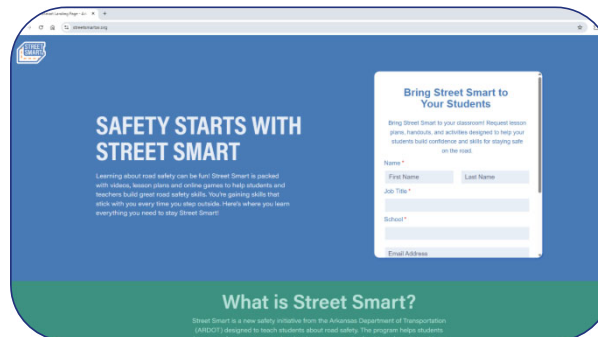
VIDEOS



STUDENT HANDOUTS



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



STREETSMARTAR.ORG



PRESENTATIONS



HEY PEDESTRIANS, **HEADS UP!**

Pedestrian Safety Basics



SAMPLE LESSON



ADVANCED **PEDESTRIAN** *SAFETY*

7th Grade Curriculum





Time to Level Up

**You know the basics of pedestrian safety.
Now it's time to level up.**

**What do you do when things aren't
clearly marked?**

How do you stay safe in tricky situations?

Let's find out.

Quick Review – *Pedestrian Basics*

1

STAY ALERT.
No phones or
headphones!

2

USE sidewalks
when possible.

3

CROSS at marked
crosswalks or
pedestrian signals.

4

OBEY traffic signs
and signals.

5

Look left-right-left
BEFORE crossing.

6

Make **EYE CONTACT**
with drivers.

**Not every place has sidewalks,
pedestrian signals or marked crosswalks.**

How do you stay safe?

Unmarked Crosswalks & Intersections

Marked crosswalks are the safest spot for pedestrians to cross, especially when there is a pedestrian signal present. But if there's not a marked crosswalk? The next best thing is to cross at an intersection where two streets meet.

DON'T cross mid-block or between parked cars!

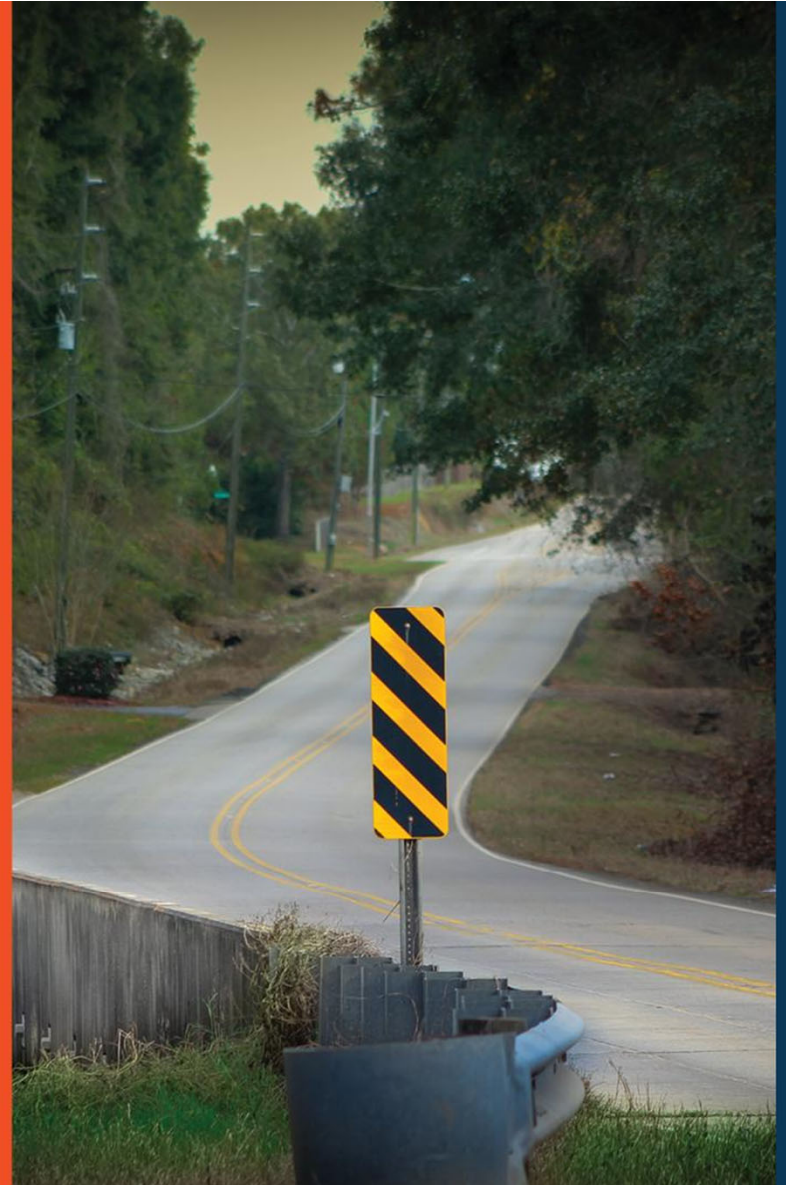
Drivers are supposed to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and keep an eye out for them elsewhere — **but don't count on it.**

Always look **left-right-left**, wait and make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

Rural Roads

A lot of Arkansans live out in the country. Being a safe pedestrian can look a little different outside of cities.

Rural areas often have no sidewalks, higher speeds and fewer traffic signs, and drivers aren't usually expecting pedestrians.



SAMPLE LESSON



Walk on the **LEFT SIDE** of the road, against the flow of traffic so you can see cars coming.

Wear **BRIGHT OR REFLECTIVE** gear.

Be **EXTRA** careful near curves, hills and driveways.

Step **OFF THE ROAD** when needed to give space.

Crossing in **Unmarked Areas**

What if there's
no intersection?
No crosswalk? No
signal? You got this.

Choose a **VISIBLE, STRAIGHT** section of road.

Avoid curves or hills where drivers will have **BLIND SPOTS**.

Look **LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT** and cross when there's a safe gap in traffic.

NEVER assume drivers will stop for you!

Parking Lots Are No Joke



Thousands of pedestrians get hit in parking areas every year. Why are they so risky?

People aren't paying attention like they do on the road. Cars back out fast, lanes are narrow and drivers may not see you.

When possible, walk in front of cars, not behind them. Stay alert — no phones or headphones.



SAMPLE LESSON

ROUNDABOUTS are more and more common, and they improve pedestrian safety (yay!). But you still need to do a few things to stay safe.

1

Cross at marked crosswalks, which are usually outside the main traffic circle.

2

Look both ways, even if traffic is only moving in one direction.

3

Wait until all lanes are clear before crossing.



Pedestrian Safety at Night & in Bad Weather

Rain, fog, snow, darkness = risky for pedestrians.

- Use sidewalks when possible.
- Wear bright, reflective clothing and carry a flashlight.
- Avoid walking on narrow roads in bad conditions.
- Take it easy to avoid falls.

Walking the Dog

**Dogs can be our best friends!
But you + dog = double the
responsibility when walking.**

- Use a short leash — no retractables near roads!
- Keep your dog on the side away from traffic to protect them from cars.
- Don't wrap the leash around your hand.
- Pick up after your dog and stay alert.



SAMPLE LESSON

Distractions Get More Dangerous



You're older now and may have more independence — so distractions are an even bigger risk.

Maybe you're walking to the store, listening to music, texting a friend — and you don't see the car turning toward you. Disaster.

Stay alert. Always.

SAMPLE LESSON

Be a *Safety Leader*

Now that you know what is safe and what's risky — **SPEAK UP.**

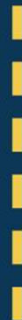
If a friend walks into the street without looking, call them back.

If the group wants to cross mid-block, suggest walking to an intersection.

Make the safer choice, even if no one's watching.

You can also advocate for safer streets in your community and make a difference. Write to your city council or mayor about:

**High-visibility
marked crosswalks**



**Brighter lighting in
high-traffic areas**



**Improved
pedestrian signage**

NOW THAT'S **STREET SMART!**

What's a pedestrian
situation you feel more
confident handling now?

7th Grade Curriculum



SAMPLE LESSON

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____



ADVANCED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

7th Grade Curriculum
AR/DOT



TIME TO LEVEL UP

You know the basics of pedestrian safety. Now it's time to level up.

What do you do when things aren't clearly _____?

How do you stay safe in _____ situations?

Let's find out.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

QUICK REVIEW - PEDESTRIAN BASICS

1. Stay _____ No phones or headphones!
2. Use _____ when possible.
3. Cross at _____ or pedestrian signals.
4. _____ traffic signs and signals.
5. Look _____ before crossing.
6. Make _____ with drivers.

NOT EVERY PLACE HAS _____
OR _____ HOW DO YOU STAY SAFE?

UNMARKED CROSSWALKS & INTERSECTIONS

_____ are the safest spot for pedestrians to cross, especially when there is a pedestrian signal present. But if there's not a marked crosswalk? The next best thing is to cross at an _____ where two _____ meet.

- DON'T cross _____ or _____ parked cars!
- Drivers are supposed to _____ to pedestrians in _____ and keep an eye out for them elsewhere — but don't count on it.
- Always look _____ wait and make _____ with drivers before crossing.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

RURAL ROADS

A lot of Arkansians live out in the _____
Being a safe pedestrian can look a little different outside of _____
Rural areas often have no _____
speeds and fewer _____ and drivers aren't usually expecting _____

- Walk on the _____ side of the road, _____ the flow of traffic so you can see cars coming.
- Wear _____ or _____ gear.
- Be extra careful near _____ and _____
- Step _____ when needed to give space.

CROSSING IN UNMARKED AREAS

What if there's no _____? No crosswalk? No signal?
You got this.

- Choose a visible, _____ section of road.
- Avoid _____ or hills where drivers will have _____ spots.
- Look _____ and cross when there's a safe gap in traffic.
- Never assume drivers will _____ for you!

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

WALKING THE DOG

Dogs can be our best friends! But you + dog ≠ double the _____ when walking.

- Use a _____ leash — no retractables near roads!
- Keep your dog on the side _____ traffic to protect them from cars.
- Don't _____ the leash around your hand.
- Pick up after your dog and stay _____

DISTRACTIONS GET MORE DANGEROUS

You're older now and may have more _____ — so distractions are an even bigger risk. Maybe you're walking to the store, listening to music, texting a friend — and you don't see the car turning toward you. Disaster. Stay _____ Always.

BE A SAFETY LEADER

Now that you know what is safe and what's risky — _____

- If a friend walks into the street without looking _____
- If the group wants to cross mid-block, suggest walking to an _____
- Make the _____ choice, even if no one's watching.

You can also _____ for safer streets in your community and make a difference. Write to your city council or mayor about:

- High-visibility _____ crosswalks
- _____ lighting in high-traffic areas
- Improved pedestrian _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

PARKING LOTS ARE NO JOKE

Thousands of pedestrians get hit in _____ areas every year. Why are they so risky?
People aren't paying _____ like they do on the road.
Cars _____ fast, lanes are _____ and drivers may not see you.
When possible, walk _____ cars, not _____ them.
Stay _____ — no phones or headphones.

ROUNDBABOUTS

Roundabouts are more and more common, and they _____ pedestrian safety (yay!). But you still need to do a few things to stay safe.

1. Cross at _____ crosswalks, which are usually _____ the main traffic circle.
2. Look _____ ways, even if traffic is only moving in one direction.
3. Wait until all lanes are _____ before crossing.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT NIGHT & IN BAD WEATHER

Rain, fog, snow, darkness = _____

- Use _____ when possible.
- Wear bright, _____ clothing and carry a _____
- Avoid walking on _____ roads in bad conditions.
- Take it easy to avoid _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

What's a pedestrian situation you feel more confident handling now?



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

LESSON 7.2
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
ADVANCED PEDESTRIAN EDITION

DIRECTIONS: With your group, consider each situation below. Then write down the safest actions. Be as detailed as possible. You can use your notes from the Advanced Pedestrian Safety presentation.

SITUATION	WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
You're walking along a rural road to visit a relative. There are no sidewalks, and the road curves sharply just past their driveway, which is on the opposite side of the road from you.	
You need to take your dog for a walk at night down a street without a sidewalk.	

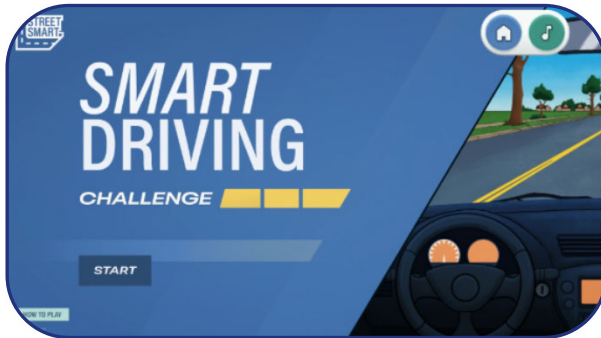
SITUATION

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

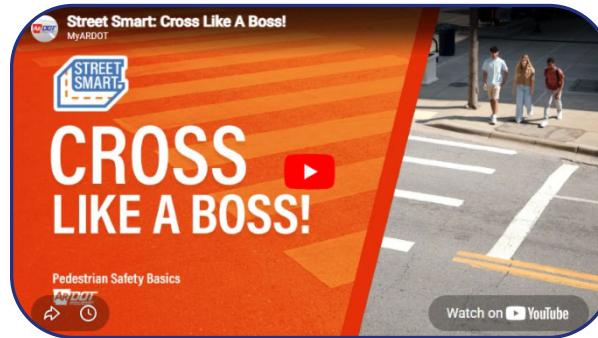
School is closed because of heavy snow, so you're walking across town to meet some friends. It's still snowing hard.

You see a friend walking toward you on a busy street wearing headphones while watching videos on their phone.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



INTERACTIVE WEB GAMES



VIDEOS

STREET SMART Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

LESSON 6.8
STUDENT JOURNAL
ARE SEATBELTS IMPORTANT?

DIRECTIONS: Answer the questions offered below by writing at least two complete sentences in each of the two sections.

BEFORE THE VIDEO:
Is it important to wear a seat belt in the car? Why or why not?

STUDENT HANDOUTS

STREET SMART Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

LESSON 8.3
HOW DOES SPEED AFFECT STOPPING DISTANCE?

In this activity, you will see how vehicle speed affects stopping distance by calculating and comparing stopping distances for different speeds. You will use a simple formula to estimate how far a vehicle would need to stop based on speed and then measure that distance using your own steps.

This simplified formula combines reaction time and braking distance for general understanding:

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

STREET SMART

Bring Street Smart to Your Students

Bring Street Smart to your classroom! Request lesson plans, handouts, and activities designed to help your students build confidence and skills for staying safe on the road.

First Name * Last Name *
Job Title *
Business *
Email Address *

What is Street Smart?

Street Smart is a new safety initiative from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ADOT) designed to teach students about road safety. The program teaches students:

STREETSMARTAR.ORG



PRESENTATIONS

PROGRAM MISSION

That all children in Arkansas are exposed to the Street Smart program in an impactful way, leading to safer habits, safer individuals, and safer roads.





1

**GET THE
MATERIALS
HERE**



2

**GIVE US
YOUR
FEEDBACK**





CONTACT INFO

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