



OVERVIEW

Street Smart is a statewide road safety education program created for students through a partnership between the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). It includes classroom curriculum with worksheets, quizzes, interactive web games, and videos. The program aims to teach students about road safety – whether it be as a passenger, bicyclist, pedestrian, or driver – before they are ever behind the wheel of a vehicle.

BACKGROUND

Safety is the top priority at ARDOT. It is the Department’s most important core value. Due to the frequency of crashes involving younger drivers, ARDOT is working to increase awareness of the risks they face on roadways. ARDOT’s mission with Street Smart is to provide students with the tools needed to be safe during any mode of travel. ARDOT is using Federal Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) funding for this campaign.

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
driving**¹



CRASHES

IN ARKANSAS
BETWEEN 2016 - 2020

13%
OF ALL
FATALITIES¹

AND

18%
OF ALL
**SERIOUS
INJURIES**¹

**INVOLVED
YOUNGER DRIVERS**
(24 YEARS OR YOUNGER)

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

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



DETAILS

The goal is for ARDOT to build Street Smart into a kindergarten through 12th grade road safety education program. Working with the Arkansas Department of Education, ARDOT aims to instill proper road safety habits in students before they begin operating a vehicle, and then to reinforce these skills through their early driving years. The program goes beyond safe driving; it also includes topics such as seatbelt usage, bicycle etiquette, pedestrian safety, and the danger of distractions – helping teach students to interact safely with vehicles on the roadway in any setting. The school curriculum consists of:



Lesson Plans and Related Materials. These lesson plans are designed to be cross-curricular, with the option to fit into several different subject areas.



Educational Videos. Videos featuring real Arkansas teenagers will emphasize traffic safety topics relevant to students.



Interactive Games. A website with educational games will further demonstrate the importance of good driving habits through interactive engagement.

ARDOT worked closely with the Arkansas Department of Education and a panel of teachers, counselors and school resource officers to ensure the materials satisfy all educational standards and are available to all schools in Arkansas.



TO ACCESS
CLASSROOM MATERIALS
VISIT THE WEBSITE AT STREETSMARTAR.ORG
OR SCAN HERE

