

STREET SMART

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 ARDOT'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 Program (HSIP) funding for this campaign.

UNSAFE DRIVING PRACTICES



NOT WEARING A SEAT BELT

In Arkansas, **43%** of younger drivers (24 years or younger) who die in crashes are **unbuckled**¹



IMPAIRED DRIVING

In Arkansas, **10%** of younger drivers involved in a fatal crash are under the influence of **drugs** or **alcohol**¹



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, **22%** of traffic fatalities and **20%** of serious injuries involve **speeding** or **aggressive driving**¹



CRASHES

IN ARKANSAS
(2020-2024)

23%
OF ALL
FATALITIES

— AND —

20%
OF ALL
SERIOUS INJURIES

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

¹ Arkansas Department of Transportation Crash Data, 2020–2024

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



DETAILS

Working with ADE, 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 includes topics such as the importance of seatbelts, bicycle etiquette, pedestrian safety, work zone safety, the danger of distractions and impaired driving, what to do when you're in a crash or pulled over, and more – helping teach students to be Street Smart 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 emphasize traffic safety from a peer perspective.



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

ARDOT worked closely with ADE 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.

TIMELINE

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Street Smart was launched in 2025 for sixth through eighth graders.

HIGH SCHOOL: In 2026, the Street Smart curriculum expanded to include ninth through twelfth graders.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Future plans include expanding Street Smart to include kindergarten through fifth grade – creating a comprehensive K-12 program.



TO ACCESS
CLASSROOM MATERIALS
VISIT StreetSmartAR.org
OR SCAN HERE

