

S4SD Newsletter

Strive for a Safer Drive



COMMUNITY DRIVING SIMULATIONS

By Kayla Thomas-Wright

Strive for a Safer Drive had the pleasure of attending the Clinton Township Fire Department 2021 open house. S4SD had the driving simulator present, mainly focusing on distracted and impaired driving. The younger population experienced the simulator on "practice mode" learning the fundamentals of driving. As the 2021-2022 S4SD program kicks off, applications are being accepted until November 19, 2021. The first 30 schools to apply by November 1 will receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

Participating schools are encouraged to inquire about driving simulators. The simulators have three modes; practice, impaired and distracted driving. **Practice** is used when participants want to gain a feeling of the simulator or for younger participants at community events. **Impaired** driving gives the participant a "feeling" of what it is like to drive impaired. The steering wheel is more sensitive than usual displaying the lack of control while impaired. Lastly, **distracted driving** instructs the student to use their phone while driving the simulator. Each participant has a different experience, pending their phone usage while virtually driving. No matter the usage, it will take someone longer to refocus on the road than it did to look at their phone. The driving simulator is a great educational tool. Schools can use the [Driving Simulator contact list](#), located in the [Resource Packet tab](#) on the website, to reserve a driving simulator or contact the program coordinator. All simulators are first come first serve. Participating schools can begin reserving now!

Newsletter Highlights

November 1: First 30 Michigan high schools to apply will receive \$100 Visa Gift Card

November 19: Application deadline

End of November: Selected schools are notified

December: Grants are mailed to participating high schools

Applications can be accessed at Michigan.gov/s4sd





TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

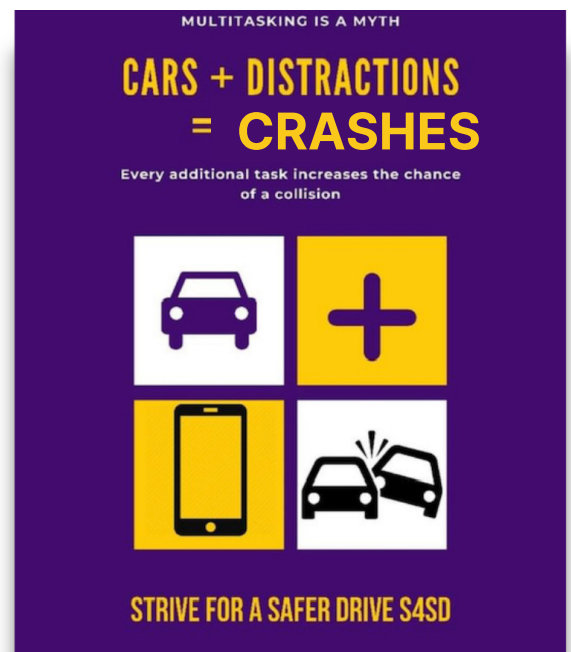
October 17-23

Strive for a Safer Drive partners with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to promote Teen Driver Safety Week. Every week, especially this week, parents are encouraged to have conversations with their teens regarding the importance of staying safe behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. As a teen, talk with local and virtual peers about safe driving habits. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for teens (15-18 years old) in the United States. It starts with you! Review tips, suggestions, and statistics below:

- 16% of teen passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2019 had alcohol in their system. Driving requires your undivided attention. Any illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter drug can decrease your reaction time.
- Almost half of teen passenger vehicle drivers who were involved in fatal crashes were unbuckled. Seat belts are designed to keep you safe. Buckle Up! Every Trip! Every Time!

- 10% of teen passenger vehicle drivers involved in a fatal crash were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. While driving keep your hands on the wheel, eyes on the road, and any food, beverages, electronic devices, or any other distractions stagnant.
- In 2019, more than a quarter of all teen passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash. Slow down and follow all speed limits.
- When transporting other teen passengers the risk of fatal crash increases. Teens are more likely to engage in distracting behaviors when in the presence of their peers.

Source: [nhtsa.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov)



Fordson High School S4SD

A Message from the Program Coordinator



Driving is new, exciting, and a step into independence and adulthood. Strive for a Safe Drive is a resource for Michigan high schools and teens as new drivers learn to navigate the rules of the road. It can be overwhelming learning to drive while learning and obeying traffic laws. S4SD is here to help in a fun and interactive way! Any Michigan high school is eligible to apply.

Up to 75 schools will be selected to receive \$1,000 to create a student led traffic safety awareness campaign!

Campaign topics may include:

Speeding, seatbelt, pedestrian, bicyclist, and passenger safety, impaired, distracted, nighttime, and winter driving.

Participating schools will select one main topic to educate peers and community members on.