

Safe Driving Teen Monthly Bulletin

Volume 148, Issue 121

March 2015

Teen Driving App Effective In Modifying Teen Driving Behavior



A teen driving app for smartphones, developed by the University of Minnesota's [HumanFIRST Laboratory](#), is showing a lot of promise as an effective tool to modify teen driving behavior and keep teen drivers safe on the road.

There have been a lot of [apps and different products](#)

Sponsored by
LowestPriceTrafficSchool.com

1-800-Pay-1495

Published by the National Safety Commission
For Teens and their Parents



developed over the years with the same intent but the developers of this app claim that this is the first developed based on years of scientific research.

Funded with \$2.5 million by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the HumanFIRST Laboratory spent almost ten years examining the issues surrounding teen crashes and developing the app. Those studies were followed up by a year-long, in-vehicle study involving teens and their parents.

The teen driving app is known as the Teen Driver Support System (TDSS) and among other things, the app:

- Prohibits the use of cell phones while the vehicle is in motion except to make 911 calls.
- Warns the teen driver if he or she is speeding or running a stop sign or red light.
- Warns that the teen is driving aggressively.
- Warns the teen that parents will be notified if the dangerous driving behavior continues.
- Notifies parents via text message if the warnings fail to stop the dangerous driving behavior.
- Provides parents with a website that documents the teen's driving behavior over a longer period of time.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Teen Driving App Effective In Modifying Teen Driving Behavior
2	Florida Driving Test Changed
3	What's The Best Way To Take A Driving Test?

\$2 Off!
Special Offer!

Enter coupon code
NL4354

Valid until April 30, 2015
Go to www.LowestPriceTrafficSchool.com
and save today!

TM

In the in-vehicle study, cars belonging to teen drivers were outfitted with instrumentation to record their driving behavior and the teen drivers were divided into three groups:

1. Drivers with no app (control group).
2. Drivers with app that provided warnings but didn't notify parents.
3. Drivers with app that provided warnings and notified parents.

The teen drivers without the app showed a greater tendency to engage in distracting and risky behaviors such as speeding more than seven mph over the posted speed limit and using the cell phone both for calls and texting while driving. The app that only provided warnings was highly effective in modifying teen driving behavior but, as might be expected, the app that provided both warnings and parental notification had the most dramatic effect on the teen's driving behavior.

Both the teens and parents involved in the study gave the driving app high marks although, also to be expected, the teens weren't as enthusiastic about the app as their parents:

60 to 75 percent of teens had a favorable opinion of the system,
More than 90 percent of parents had a favorable opinion of the system, and
90 percent of parents would recommend the app to other parents of teen drivers.

While the TDSS teen driving app isn't yet available for general use, the University of Minnesota's Office for Technology Commercialization is studying the system and the team hopes it will be available for general use within a year.

Ready to get your Learners Permit?



**Take the Drug & Alcohol Course at
LowestPriceTrafficSchool.com**

Florida Driving Test Changed



The written portion of the Florida driving test was changed last year and, apparently, a lot of people are having a hard time passing the newer version.

According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the old test hadn't been updated in 20 years and many of the questions could be found online. So, it was decided that the time had come to update the test.

According to a spokesman for the Duval County, Florida Tax Collector's office, the previous test had a failure rate of about 40 percent. Since the new test was introduced, the failure rate statewide has increased to almost 70 percent.

The previous test consisted of a total of 40 questions with 20 questions on road rules and 20 on road signs. The new test consists of 50 questions with 45 on road rules and 5 on road signs. Also, the new test requires a passing rate of 80 percent compared to the old passing rate of 75 percent.

There was no time limit on the old version of the test but the new test has a time limit of one hour.

The new test draws the 50 questions from a total database of 1200 questions. So, if someone has to take the test again, he or she is unlikely to see the same question twice. There's no charge for the first test but, if a prospective driver fails the test, each re-test costs an additional \$10 plus a \$6.25 service fee for a total of \$16.25.

Ask The Driving School Instructor: What's the Best Way to Take A Driving Test?



Question: What is the best way to take the written driving test?

Answer: A lot of people have what educators refer to as “test anxiety.” They get so nervous about a test that, even though they may know the material, their anxiety about the test can make even an easy test hard. It doesn’t have to be that way. Here are a few tips to help you be prepared for the test.

Before we go on, we first have to have to understand how the test works and learn a couple of terms. Most state tests are given by computer. The questions come from a large database of up to 1,000 questions and the computer will randomly pick the required number of questions from that database. Because the original database of questions is so large, if you should fail the test and have to take it again, you probably won’t see many of the same questions on your second test.

Each question will consist of the question, only one correct answer, and two or three wrong answers known as “distractors.”

Depending on the state, you may or may not have a time limit in which to take the test. In the case of Florida’s test, you have one hour to answer 50 questions. That means you have two full minutes for each question. That really is a long time and you won’t spend a full two minutes on each question so that gives you more time to answer the harder ones.

So here’s the best way to take the test.

1. Know the material! No matter how smart you may be, if you haven’t studied the material, you stand a good chance of failing the test. For the driving test, the best source of study is the state driver’s handbook. You can get a printed copy from the DMV or download a free copy online from your state’s DMV website. For Floridians, you can download a free copy here: [Florida Driver Handbook](#). You can also take [practice tests](#) online that will help you prepare for the test.

2. Read the question carefully! A lot of questions are missed because the test taker didn’t read the question correctly. Take your time and read it carefully so you know exactly what kind of answer the question is looking for.

3. Read all of the answers/distractors carefully. One single word can turn an answer from a correct answer into a distractor.

4. Eliminate the wrong answers. If you aren’t completely sure of the correct answer, you can help yourself by eliminating the wrong answers first. Then you can more easily choose the correct answer.

5. “All of the above” or “none of the above” isn’t always the correct answer; don’t automatically choose those answers without reading all of the other answers first.

6. If there is more than one answer that you absolutely know is true, then “all of the above” is probably the correct answer.

7. If there is one answer that you know for sure is correct, then “none of the above” won’t be the correct answer.

8. If you aren’t sure of the correct answer and you have two answers that appear to be correct, read each one carefully and look for that possible single word that could turn it into a wrong answer. If, after eliminating the ones you know are wrong, you still aren’t sure, then go with your best guess.

9. Your first choice is probably the best choice. Don’t try to second guess yourself and go back and change an answer. The only time you should go back and try to change an answer is if a later question makes you realize that you were wrong on the previous question. Still, don’t change it unless you are absolutely positive that you were wrong the first time. If you aren’t sure, leave it alone. Remember that you’re using up time to go back and change an answer.

Good luck!

Read More: <http://www.lowestpricetrafficschool.com> ♦