

A HANDBOOK
FOR RESPONSIBLE
DRIVING

For Parents and Teens

Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee

Dear Teens and Parents,

This handbook addresses the issue of family driving responsibilities. It was originally developed by the Gwinnett Teen Traffic Tragedies Task force and has been updated by the Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee and again by the Marietta-Cobb Driver's Education program.

In the past few years, far too many teens and adults have been seriously injured or killed on our roads. In addition, mature driving skills are necessary in Cobb County considering the driving conditions and the number of vehicles on the road. With those factors in mind, this handbook was created with input from teenagers, parents and community leaders in an attempt to make the driving experience safer and more positive for all drivers, especially new and young drivers. Included in this handbook you will find the following:

- | Points to Consider
- | Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act
- | Driving Contract Information
- | Sample Rewards and Consequences
- | Teen/Family Contract for Safe Driving
- | Driving Checklist
- | Ten Common Driving Errors
- | Tips for Parents/Guardians
- | History of the Task Force

We hope you find the information useful in learning about driving responsibilities and in discussions with teen drivers.

Developing the necessary motor skills for safe driving is a complex task and can only be learned through many hours of practice and review. Please take the time to read this material and use any of it you feel will help develop safe driving skills within your family.

For questions, comments or information on how to receive additional copies of this handbook, call the Marietta Community School at (770) 429-3170 or visit our website at www.mariettacommunityschool.com.

Sincerely,

The Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee

Points to Consider

Let's Start Talking....

Whether you have been driving for many years, or, are just beginning, these safety concerns are worth consideration. Together, parents and teens can take steps to reduce their chances of experiencing a car crash. Below are points to consider and discuss.

1. When choosing a car, remember, advanced driving skills are necessary to control high performance and lightweight cars, especially in emergency situations.
2. Getting behind the wheel of a car when you are angry or upset often results in unsafe driving behaviors.
3. Safety belts save lives. As of July 1, 1996, all front seat occupants and passengers up to the age of 18 in both the front and rear seats must travel in a vehicle with safety belts fastened. Persons under the age of 18 must wear safety belts when in a moving pickup truck.
4. Having car insurance does not necessarily mean that anyone can drive or borrow your car. Familiarize yourself with your family's insurance policy and your legal liabilities.
5. Establish specific agreements related to the loan of a family vehicle to other drivers. Another driver who is unfamiliar with the vehicle's steering, braking or power may experience confusion or panic in an emergency situation.
6. Remind drivers that they are not only responsible for their own safety, but also for the safety of all passengers in the car and other persons on the road.
7. An automobile is a powerful machine. It can destroy property, and injure or kill people. Discuss your feelings about what may occur as a result of a traffic accident.
8. Safety on the road is everyone's business. Any loss of life is devastating. Discuss grief, loss and the value of life.
9. Form a neighborhood coalition for the protection of you and your neighbors by confronting those who drive irresponsibly and create unsafe situations in your neighborhood. Your coalition can also develop prevention programs.
10. Underage drinking is against the law and is not part of "growing up". Establish, monitor and enforce a no alcohol or other drug use policy for teens and a no drinking and driving rule for the entire family.
11. Since most crashes occur within 25 miles of home, require all passengers to buckle up every trip - no matter how short the distance.

12. It is a fact that a higher risk is involved when teenage drivers and passengers travel together without adults. An even higher risk is involved as the number of teen passengers increases. Discuss the reasons why this is true and what can be done about it. Discuss the responsibilities and necessary precautions when riding in a car driven by a teen.
13. Training doesn't end with driver education classes. Maturing into a safe driver requires continuous training and practice in good driving techniques.
14. Discuss ahead of time the expectations, responsibilities, curfews and family rules. (A sample contract is provided in this brochure for your use.)

In the year 2000, there were 1541 motor vehicle related fatalities in Georgia.. Of these numbers, 218 young people ages 16 to 20 died. The fatalities of these 16 to 20 year olds represent 14% of the total fatalities in Georgia.

Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act

(Summary of Major Provisions)

1. GRADUATED DRIVERS LICENSING (Effective date July 1, 1997)

- A. Class P (Instruction Permit) will be granted to anyone age 15 or older upon passage of a written examination. The permit will be valid for 2 years. A permit holder must drive with a licensed driver age 21 or older.
- B. Class D License will be granted to anyone (1) between the ages of 16 and 18, (2) who has had a valid permit for at least 12 months, and, (3) who, during the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted for DUI, Hit and Run, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, Drag Racing, Reckless Driving, Eluding a Police Officer, or any offense for which 4 or more points are assessed which include going 24 or more miles per hour over the speed limit; passing on a hill or a curve; and, illegally passing a school bus.

Limitations on Class D License (Intermediate License):

- Cannot drive between 12:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. (no exceptions)
- No driving with any non-family passengers under the age of 21 for the first six months
- On or after January 1, 2002, anyone who obtains an initial class D license must have completed:
 - 1. An approved driver education course and a cumulative total of at least 20 hours of supervised driving (6 hours at night) OR
 - 2. A cumulative total of at least 40 hours of supervised driving (6 hours at night)

These requirements also apply to an applicant for an initial Class C license who has not previously been issued a Class D license.

- C. Class C License (Full License) will be granted to anyone (1) age 18 or older, (2) who holds a valid Class D license, and, (3) who, during the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted for DUI, Hit and Run, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, Drag Racing, Reckless Driving, Eluding a Police Officer, or any offense for which 4 or more points are assessed.

2. STAY IN SCHOOL REQUIREMENT (Effective January 1, 1998)

- A. No individual under the age of 18 can obtain a driver's license or instructional permit unless he or she is attending a public school, private school or is enrolled in home schooling authorized by law; or has graduated from high school, received a certificate of high school completion or has completed his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a post-secondary school.
- B. If a student under 18 drops out of school and has remained out of school for 10 consecutive days, or has more than 10 consecutive school days of unexcused

absences in any semester or combination of two consecutive quarters, notice will be given by the school to the Department of Public Safety. The student's driver's license will then be suspended until he or she returns to school. The license will not be suspended if the student has obtained and delivered to the school written permission from the student's parent or guardian authorizing the student to drop out of school.

- C. A student's driver's license will be suspended for 90 days if the student is suspended from school for any one of the following offenses:
- ❖ Threatening, striking or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel
 - ❖ Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school grounds.
 - ❖ Possession or use of a weapon on school grounds. The term weapon does not include any part of an archaeological or cultural exhibit brought to school in connection with a school project.

3. TEMPORARY DRIVING PERMIT

A student can obtain a temporary driving permit from the Department of Public Safety to drive to and from work with a suspended license, if he or she has demonstrated the need for the permit. The permit would only be granted if the driver's license has been suspended for a school-related infraction or for dropping out of school.

3. SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS (Effective July 1, 1997)

- A. Drivers under age 21 will have their drivers license revoked for the following offenses:
- Hit and Run or Leaving the Scene of an Accident
 - Racing or eluding an Officer
 - Reckless Driving
 - Drag Racing
 - Any Moving Violation for which 4 or more Points are Assessed
 - Purchasing or Attempting to Purchase an Alcoholic Beverage (a non-driving offense)
 - Driving Under the Influence
 - For drivers under the age of 18, a violation point count of four or more points in a 12-month period will also result in a suspension.
 - Any DUI conviction in which the driver's blood alcohol concentration is 0.08 grams or higher will result in a 12-month suspension, even if it is the first offense.
- B. Period of Revocation
- 1st Offense: 6 months
 - 2nd Offense: 12 months
- C. Additional sanctions are imposed for DUI (see below)

4. **ZERO TOLERANCE AND DUI** (Effective Date: January 1, 2002)

A. A blood-alcohol content of .02% or greater is considered DUI for any driver between the ages of 15-21.

1. Penalty (in addition to revocations outlined above) for .02 or more but less than .07:

- 1st conviction – Suspension of license for 6 months, with no reinstatement prior to the end of the suspension period; No nolo contendere plea; Attendance at a DUI school; Must re-take driver's test; At least 20 hours of community service, to begin within 60 days of sentencing; Los of ability to obtain next Graduated License level for 12 months.
- 2nd conviction – Punishment is the same as for the first offense except: Community service is not less than 40 hours; Clinical evaluation and treatment, if indicated..

2. Penalty for driving with a BAC of .08% or above:

- 1st Conviction – Punishment is the same as for the first offense for .02% -.07%, except: Suspension of driver's license is for 12 months; Clinical evaluation and treatment if indicated; A mandatory 24-hour jail term must be served upon conviction.
- 2nd Conviction – Punishment is the same as for the first offense for .08% and above, except: Community service is not less than 30days; Clinic al evaluation and treatment if indicated; Mandatory jail term is not less that 72 hours.

If the offender is under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court due to the age, the sentence will be served at a Youth Development Center (YDC), or be placed in the Sheriff's custody.

In all cases, the offender will be separated from the main prison population.

Regardless of age, the judge will still have the discretion to sentence the driver for a misdemeanor. With graduated punishment, depending on the number of prior offenses.

Of the 50 states, Georgia had the 6th highest number of 16 to 20 year old crash fatalities in 2000.

Driving Contract Information

It is important that you, as a family, address the situations and conditions you feel are important to earning and maintaining driving privileges. The conditions are those stipulations that a teen and parent must jointly agree on for the responsibility of driving. Below is a list of sample conditions, consequences and recognitions that can be used in a contract for safe driving between a teen driver and his/her parent(s). These conditions are only intended as sample ideas.

Sample Conditions

1. Obey all traffic laws and regulations.
2. Whether you are a driver or a passenger, always wear a safety belt. When driving, insist that all passengers in the car wear their safety belts as well.
3. Drive defensively.
4. Do not drive another vehicle, nor permit anyone to drive your car - except for pre-determined emergencies established by the family and teen.
5. Keep your family advised of your intended route, anticipated time of return and any deviations or delays.
6. Make sure an emergency identification packet is assembled and placed in the glove compartment of all cars. This packet might include: maps, emergency home and medical phone numbers, driver identification, accident report forms, a list of what to do in case of an accident, automobile registration, insurance card and policy information, and, brief medical information such as drug allergies.
7. Advise other drivers in the family of mechanical malfunctions with the vehicle.
8. Keep the vehicle clean to prevent injury due to loose objects or lack of visibility.
9. Communicate needs for use of the vehicle in advance and be willing to assist in family driving "chores".
10. If a teen or parent is ever in a situation where the driver is in no condition to drive, a phone call home for advice and/or transportation will be made. This call can be made at any hour and from any place.
11. Maintain at least $\frac{1}{4}$ tank of gas in the vehicle at all times.
12. Run routine maintenance checks on oil, tire pressure, tire treads and any other items agreed upon by family members.
13. Hide emergency money in the vehicle including quarters for phone calls, in the amount of \$_____ in a designated place at all times. If the money is used, family members must be notified and the money replaced as soon as possible.
14. Both parent and teen will help to remind each other of obeying traffic laws.
15. Drivers will pay for their own gas insurance, car maintenance, etc.
16. Driving privileges will be expanded as driving skill level increases. (Ex: Beginning driving privileges are restricted to daytime hours with adult supervision, graduating to more daytime driving without adult supervision, to limited nighttime driving with adult supervision and so on.)

17. No cell phone use while driving....under ANY circumstance. You must always pull safely off the road to use the cell phone.
18. Driver will restrain from playing loud music or changing stations, CDs or tapes while driving. Changing stations, CDs and tapes is allowed only when car is not in motion.

Develop any other conditions you feel are appropriate for your family's contract.

Sample Rewards and Consequences

Consequences of abiding by or breaking the established conditions should be made. It is as important to recognize and reward drivers for adhering to the conditions as it is to correct a driver for not following the conditions. In administering consequences, positive or negative, it is important to clearly communicate exactly what has been done right or wrong. Both parent and teen must clearly understand the reasons for the consequences.

Rewards

- π Verbal Recognition
- π Increased access to vehicle
- π Increased privileges at home
- π Increased participation in weekend activities

Consequences

- π Restrict or remove driving privileges for a specified period of time
- π Take away driver's license for a specified period of time
- π Require adult to travel with teen driver again for a specified period of time
- π Require payment of fines, repairs or increases in insurance premiums

Please note that consequences should be set ahead of time as part of any contract, not at the time of infraction. They should be agreed upon by both teen and parent.

Georgia crash deaths for individuals of ages 16 to 20 rose from 218 in 2000 to 230 in 2001, an increase of 5.2%.

Teen/Family Contract for Safe Driving

We, _____ hereby enter into an agreement covering the use and operation of any vehicle used by _____.

- 1. Background.** Congratulations, you have turned 16! This is a major milestone. It provides the opportunity for significantly greater freedom, but this potential freedom requires significantly greater responsibility. Driving an automobile is very expensive and can be very dangerous. The statistics are overwhelming that young adults have substantially more accidents and more serious accidents than any other age group. We love you and are very proud of you. We can not bear the thought of something happening to you, or a family member, or one of your friends riding with you. The purpose of this agreement is to establish rules and expectations regarding your use and operation of an automobile. Driving an automobile is a privilege, not a right. The driver must obey traffic and other applicable laws, including courtesy to other drivers, to maintain the privilege of driving. You must comply with the terms of this agreement to maintain your privilege.

You will be required to pay for the following (*write in percent desired*):

_____ Cost of Vehicle	_____ Vehicle Registration
_____ Cost of Fuel	_____ Maintenance Costs (? See 2)
_____ Damage due to abuse	_____ Full Insurance Coverage
_____ Under-age-25 insurance costs	_____ Fines and penalties
_____ Collision damage	_____ Under-B-Average insurance costs
_____ Costs due to driving record	_____ Other

- 2. The Car.** In the event you are provided with an automobile, or, if you share the family vehicle, we will ensure that it will be in good working condition. We will pay all costs associated with normal maintenance of the car. You will pay all costs associated with any accident that we believe was caused by you and any other costs that could have been avoided through prudent care of the car. It is your responsibility to be aware of the condition of the car and to let us know immediately of any unusual noises, problems, etc. For your information, the cost to repair a car for even a minor “fender-bender” typically exceeds \$500. In your car, you will always have your registration, insurance card, emergency phone numbers, jumper cables and a fire extinguisher.

You will be responsible for the following (*check those applicable*):

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| _____ | Check fluids each fuel fill | _____ | Inspect and check tire pressure |
| _____ | Report unusual performance | _____ | Clear or clean all windows |
| _____ | Maintain ¼ tank of gas at all times | _____ | Do normal maintenance |
| _____ | Wash and wax the vehicle | _____ | Keep interior clean |
| _____ | Have maintenance done | _____ | Other |

3. **Insurance.** Your insurance rates will be established for a driver who gets a good student discount, discount for driver training and any other available discounts, and who has no traffic tickets or accidents. A “B” average or above results in a decrease in insurance costs. The cost of the insurance is _____. You will pay the cost of any increase in insurance rates, other than normal increases.
4. **Traffic Tickets.** You will obey all traffic laws. You must pay for any traffic tickets, and any citation will result in a reduction in driving privileges. Traffic tickets typically range from \$50 to \$200 for simple negligence with reckless acts significantly higher.

You will lose your user privileges these number of days for each traffic offense or at-fault crash:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| First Offense _____ | days | Preventable Crash _____ | days |
| Second Offense _____ | days | Serious Violation _____ | days |
| Third Offense _____ | days | Drugs or Alcohol _____ | days |

5. **Seat Belts.** You agree to properly wear a seat belt at all times. You agree to require your passengers to wear a seat belt at all times. You may not take any non-family passengers under the age of 21 for the first 6 months of your Class D licensing period. You may not take more passengers than the number of seat belts. Seat belts will be fastened before the car moves.
6. **Restricted Activities While Driving.** You agree to devote your complete and undivided attention to driving while operating an automobile. An unusually high number of accidents are caused (or tickets received) when the driver is distracted or engaged in other activities than driving the car. You agree not to eat or drink when driving. You will not change tapes/CDs or “fiddle” with the radio when the car is moving. You agree to pull over and stop to use your cell phone.
7. **Directions.** An unusually high number of accidents are caused (or tickets received) when the driver is uncertain where he or she is going. You need to know where you are going and precisely how you will get there before leaving. If you are ever lost or uncertain, stop and ask for directions at a safe (e.g. good lighting) gas station or similar establishment. Keep your family informed of your destination and approximate time of arrival and departure as well as route taken. Check in frequently and notify your family of any delays. If you are provided with a car phone, use it only when the car is stopped in a safe place.

8. **Gasoline.** There is no excuse for running out of gas. You agree to keep your gas tank no less than ¼ full at all times.
9. **User Privileges.** Understand that there is a significant amount of driving and errands that must be performed to keep our family functioning at the level we have chosen. In exchange for the use of a car, other privileges you enjoy and years of transportation, you agree to help with family driving and errands. Errands will be performed with a positive, helpful attitude.

Your user privilege will be linked to your grades in school and performance at home and such things as:

- Doing duties at home properly and on time
- Showing proper respect for parents and others
- Complying with family regulations
- Attendance, conduct and effort at school
- Obeying your curfew
- Other (specific to family)

10. **Substance Use.** You agree not to consume alcohol, use illegal drugs or smoke. Violations will result in a loss of driving privileges as well as other restriction. This also pertains to passengers in your vehicle.
11. **Amendments.** We have used our best efforts to cover the issues surrounding the use of an automobile; however, we reserve the right to modify this agreement in the future.

You are Legally Responsible for Your Actions as a Driver. We, as your family, agree that we will also abide by the terms of this contract.

We, as Vehicle Owners, Are Legally Liable for Damages Done By You as a Driver.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 19_____

Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Son/Daughter _____

Driver's Education is a good first step, but a parent's role in teaching students to drive is crucial. Below is a checklist parents can use to help a student learn safe driving skills.

Driving Checklist

Student Driver	<u>Never</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Always</u>
3 Knows location of instruments, gauges and safety devices and checks them before driving			
3 Adjust mirrors, steering wheel and seat properly			
3 Wears safety belts without being reminded			
3 Works to maintain a safe following distance			
3 Demonstrates correct hand position on the steering wheel			
3 Demonstrates the "two-second" rule - you can count "1 - 1000, 2 - 1000" between the time the back of a car in front of you passes a stationary object and the time the front of your car reaches the same spot			
3 Is aware of other driver's blind spots			
3 Checks blind spots before changing lanes			
3 Is aware of tailgaters and knows how to deal with them			
3 Anticipates changing traffic lights			
3 Checks mirrors frequently			
3 Uses horn appropriately			
3 Signals before turns and lane changes			
3 Anticipates possible braking situations			
3 Appears relaxed and comfortable while driving			
3 Is comfortable driving at night			
3 Uses high and low beams appropriately			
3 Adjusts speed to road, traffic and weather conditions			
3 Works to maintain a space cushion or buffer zone on all four sides of the car			
3 Checks intersections carefully and pauses before entering an intersection			
3 Sets emergency brake or parking brake before leaving vehicle			
3 Demonstrates good, smooth movements and coordination during and after turns			

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 3 | Demonstrates good scanning habits at all times | | | |
| 3 | Obeys traffic laws - including speed limits | | | |
| 3 | Leave sufficient room to see the rear wheels against the pavement of a stopped car in front | | | |

Ten Common Driving Errors

1. **Excessive Speed**
2. **Failure to wear seat belt**
3. **Inattentiveness**
4. **Distraction inside the automobile (e.g. - changing a tape or compact disk, eating or drinking, using a car phone)**
5. **Inadequate defensive driving techniques**
6. **Incorrect assumptions about other driver**
7. **Tailgating or not leaving enough space between vehicles - even on the open road**
8. **Not checking traffic before pulling out**
9. **Passing without checking for traffic in the passing lane**
10. **Not checking behind for oncoming cars when pulling away from the curb**

Driving and Peer Pressure

Teenagers too often adopt driving behavior patterned on a cycle of risk and peer pressure. These teenagers begin driving with the dangerous habits that they have picked up on from their peers, which often includes excessive speeding. While adults are not innocent of some of these habits, they are especially dangerous to teenagers. For example, a speeding adult may have the experience to correct their mistake, while the teenager may overreact to their mistake by suddenly losing control of the vehicle.

Tips for Parents/Guardians

1. When YOU drive, set a good example for your teenager. Remember, “Actions speak louder than words.”
2. Consider mixed messages you may send to your teenager. (e.g. - 1. Telling your teen to obey the speed limit and then using a radar detector when you drive; 2. Allowing your teen and their friends to drink in your home - drinking under the age of 21 is against the law at any time.)
3. Schedule frequent, short, well-planned practice sessions (30 minutes or less).
4. Provide many hours of supervised driving practice. Continue practice sessions even after a license has been obtained.
5. Expose your teenager to many different driving conditions (i.e., wet roads, crowded two lane roads, inter-states, rural roads, night driving, etc.)
6. Do not assume your teenager knows what you want them to do when learning to drive. Give all directions clearly, calmly, and well in advance of the maneuver. (e.g. - “At the next intersection, turn left.”) Also, discuss ahead of time specific directions to the designated location.
7. Help with steering in advance of trouble (e.g. running off shoulder of road.)
8. When braking is needed, inform your teenager early.
9. Make positive remarks frequently. Let your teenager know that he or she is doing well!
10. Require everyone in the car to buckle up before starting the car.
11. Patience is essential. Try and remain calm and relaxed during teaching sessions. This helps to instill confidence.
12. Consider loaning, not giving, your teen a car of his or her own. It is preferable for you, the parent, to retain ownership and make use by the teen a privilege for him or her.
13. If you feel uncomfortable with instructing your teen, consider finding another adult willing to assist in driver education.
14. Enroll your teen in a driver’s education course.
15. Good Luck!!

Over 24 young people died in motor vehicle crashes in the Metro Atlanta area between March and November in 2000.

History of the Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee

During 1996 and 1997, there were numerous serious automobile accidents in Cobb County in which over 12 teenagers lost their lives and many more were seriously injured. These accidents prompted a group of Cobb County parents from Harrison High School to form a committee to educate our teen drivers and their parents on the dangers of driving. The Committee wanted to focus on helping teenage drivers understand the dangers of inexperienced driving, and, motivating parents to work with their teenagers in becoming better drivers.

Gwinnett County experienced a similar situation in the late 1980's. As a result, they formed a group called the Gwinnett County Teen Traffic Tragedies Task Force. One of the actions of this Task Force was to publish a handbook entitled "A Handbook for Responsible Driving." After this handbook was published, a significant decrease was experienced in teen driving accidents in Gwinnett County. Based on the success of this handbook, we approached Gwinnett County and they gave permission to Cobb County to develop our version of the handbook.

The Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee is dedicated to assisting Cobb County teenagers and their parents in working together to create a safe driving environment in Cobb County and on the roads of Georgia. The Committee would like to thank the 14th District PTA, Harrison High School and the Cobb County Board of Education as well as all of the other sponsors who have helped make this project a reality.

In the year 2000, 16 of the 70 motor vehicle fatalities in Cobb County were teenagers ranging in age from 16 to 20 years old.

Letter from Mr. Joseph Redden
Superintendent of Cobb County Schools

Dear Parents:

As our teens reach driving age, we come upon an especially important obligation and opportunity. As a parent, I found it one of the best times to teach and encourage responsibility.

There is no issue more important to the safety of our children than that of teenage driving. The PTAs of Cobb County have done us all a tremendous service by supporting "A Handbook for Responsible Driving." This compilation represents many hours of work and typifies their commitment to the establishment of safe driving practices among young people. I would also like to commend Lockheed Martin Marietta Georgia's Community Relations Department, which underwrote the publication of this manual. They are indeed modeling the "good neighbor" concept by lending their support to this effort.

Please take the time to read this manual, have your teen read it also, and then use it to encourage a dialogue with your child. We all believe that our children are our most precious gift, and through the joint work of Cobb PTAs and Lockheed Martin, we can all work to provide support as they grow into safe, responsible drivers.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Redden".

Joseph Redden
Superintendent

Letter from Dr. Harold T. Barnett
Superintendent of Marietta City Schools

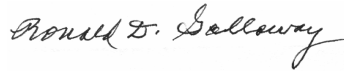
Dear Parents,

Marietta City School's Board of Education is dedicated to the education and safety of our young people. Traffic in metro-Atlanta has become dangerously congested making it imperative that inexperienced drivers have access to information and training in driver's education and defensive driving.

We appreciate the work that has gone into the publication of this informative handbook. This is a shining example of the importance of the Parent Teacher Association's involvement with our local schools. Thank you for taking a leadership role in this critical area.

Marietta City Schools is proud of its uninterrupted service to students in Driver's Education. When state funding was cut in 1984, Marietta's Board of Education voted to continue providing this important course through the Community School Program.

Excellence in Education,



Harold T. Barnett
Superintendent

Marietta City Schools

Special Acknowledgment

The Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee would like to recognize the members of the Gwinnett County Teen Traffic Tragedies Task Force committee (listed below) who assisted in researching, compiling and publishing the initial Gwinnett County Handbook for Responsible Driving. Their handbook was a great help in educating Gwinnett County teenagers and parents and has been used as the model for Cobb County's handbook. We appreciate their willingness to allow us to adopt and produce this Cobb County version of their handbook

Members of the Gwinnett County Teen Traffic Tragedies Task Force

- State Farm Insurance Companies for their support and printing of the Handbook
- Atlanta Gas Light Company
- Atlanta Journal and Constitution
- Centers for Disease Control: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
- Georgia Department of Human Resources
- Georgia Extension Services: Occupant Safety Program
- Governor's DUI Task Force
- Governor's Office of Highway Safety
- Gwinnett County Department of Transportation
- Gwinnett County Fire Safety Bureau
- Gwinnett County Police Department
- Gwinnett County Parent Teacher Association
- Gwinnett County Public Health Department
- Gwinnett County Public Schools
- Gwinnett Hospital System
- Gwinnett Post Tribune
- Gwinnett Solicitors Court
- Gwinnett United in Drug Education (GUIDE)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- National Safety Council: Southeastern Region Office
- Street Smarts

This handbook would not have been made possible without the dedication and perseverance of Debby Bunn, a Harrison High School parent and PTSA member. Debby first began this project to produce this handbook for every family at Harrison High School. She felt this information was so vital, it needed to be made available to every family with teenage drivers (or soon to be drivers) in Cobb County. In the true PTA fashion, she went above and beyond, and wanted to reach every high school student.

Special Thanks!!

The printing of this handbook was made possible by Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems, Marietta, Georgia. Without their generous donation and help, the publication of this handbook would not have been possible.



Many other organizations and individuals contributed their time, efforts and money to the publication of this handbook. The Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee would like to thank those who supported this very worthwhile endeavor.

Thanks to our other generous sponsors:

SUPER Sponsors (\$5,000 or over)

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- Governor's Office of Highway Safety
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- Harrison High School PTSA
- Cobb County Commission on Children and Youth
- Life University
- North Cobb High School PTSA

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- Sheriff Bill Hutson

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- 14th District PTA
- Bill Byrne - Cobb County Commission Chmn.
- Debby and Jim Bunn
- Campbell High School PTSA
- Cobb Community Parents in Action
- Cobb County Toyota
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- Lassiter High School PTSA
- Marietta High School PTSA
- McEachern High School PTSA
- Osborne High School PTSA
- Pebblebrook High School PTSA
- Pope and Land Enterprises
- Pope High School PTSA
- South Cobb High School PTSA
- Sprayberry High School PTSA
- Walton High School PTSA
- Wheeler High School PTSA

Friends Of Safe Driving (\$50 - \$99)

- Charlie Hagan, State Farm Insurance
- Chris Volvo
- Linda and Gene Coker
- Goldsteins
- Marietta Toyota
- Riverside Bank
- Ed Voyles Chrysler/Plymouth

Cobb County Teen Driver Awareness Committee and Supporters

- 14th District PTA
- Cobb Community Parents in Action
- Cobb County Board of Education
- Cobb County School's Prevention Intervention Center
- Harrison High School PTSA
- Marietta Board of Education
- Office Max
- State Farm Insurance Companies
- Teen Driver Safety Council

Many of the statistics in this brochure were obtained from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.