



NEWS RELEASE
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**Governor's Office of Highway Safety Awards SADD Grant To
Pioneer RESA**

How many Georgia high schools make headlines because young driver's die at the wheel, plunging entire student populations into sudden periods of grief and disbelief? Car crashes remain the **Number One** cause of death for teens and inexperienced young driver, ages 15-19, have a higher rate of crashes, injuries and fatalities than adult and elderly drivers. In 2008, there were 134 fatalities, 13,968 injuries and 85,297 crashes that involved 15-19 year-olds on Georgia's roadways. According to the most recent data (2008), 41% of the 15-19 year-old passenger vehicle occupants were killed or seriously injured were unrestrained. The inexperience and immaturity of younger drivers are thought to be major contributing factors in the high fatality rate. (Georgia Accident Reporting Crash Data).

In an effort to involve Georgia students in reducing injury and death to young drivers, Pioneer RESA in Cleveland, GA is proud to announce their receipt of a \$62,500.00 Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS). This grant has been awarded to the following counties, Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Gainesville, Gainesville City Schools, Gilmer, Hall, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Union and White.

The grant will enhance existing SADD chapter (or allow your school to start a new chapter) with the idea that with student input into the solution will help alleviate the problem of teen driver fatalities in Georgia.

"The Governor's Office of Highway Safety is committed to changing the tragic trend of teen driver deaths in Georgia," said GOHS Director Harris Blackwood. "We're here to make changes and I believe the SADD students at can help us achieve the goal of lowering teen driver, crash, injury and fatality rates statewide. Who better to address the challenges and dangers of teen driving than teens themselves? I'm confident these SADD students can convince their peers to be safer, more conscientious drivers."

The SADD chapters plan to conduct seatbelt surveys and conduct and support events for promoting the dangers of drinking and driving, especially during prom activities.

In addition, the SADD chapter will send its president and advisor to a statewide leadership-training program each fall along with the representative from other high schools that received similar grants.

For more information on how to obtain a SADD grant, contact:
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