



The School District of Osceola County, FL
Terry Andrews, Superintendent

Press Release (English and Spanish)

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State of Florida Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Education Training Course Available To First-Time Teen Drivers On Osceola School Campuses

The Osceola School District and the Orange Osceola Safety Institute of Central Florida (OOSI) are working together to better prepare Osceola County student drivers for Florida roads. Tragically, an alarming number of young drivers are killed each year in preventable vehicle collisions.

The Osceola School District is committed to providing students with the best driver education training available at nine high schools. The State of Florida mandates all first-time driver license applicants to take a four-hour Drug and Alcohol Course. While students are allowed to take the course through the internet for convenience, school programs offer first-time drivers experience for the challenges they will face driving on Florida roads. OOSI uses professional instructors with years of law enforcement experience to teach student drivers. The prevention-training curriculum is designed to reduce motor vehicle collisions and deaths caused by the use of alcohol and drugs and texting while driving. The State of Florida Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Education Training Course will be available to all Osceola County students on their school campuses several times throughout the school year, with the next course beginning in January. The course fee is \$20.00, and students can register online at www.OOSI.org or by calling 407-566-8713.

Recently, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle reviewed a sampling of first-time drivers who received their learners permit through the internet, and found that within weeks of taking the knowledge test, the young adults could not recall the basic rules and regulations of the road to the point where they failed the same exam upon re-test. "In-class instruction is the best way to prepare the first-time driver," said OOSI Director Greg Iwanski. "This allows for teacher/student interaction leading to long-term retention and a lifetime of safe driving. The Osceola County School District is leading the way to improving the driving skills and knowledge of our teen first-time driver. This worthwhile project will benefit Osceola schools, Osceola students, and our community."