

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

Pre-School to Year 12

ISBN-0-7310-1340-9
SCIS - 774171
Road Safety Education Policy
Statement Pre-school to Year 12

Published by the
NSW Department of
School Education
December 1994

© 1994 Department of School Education
Curriculum Directorate

RESTRICTED WAIVER OF COPYRIGHT

The printed material in this publication is subject to a restricted waiver of copyright to allow the purchaser to make photocopies of the material contained in the publication for use within a school subject to the conditions below.

1. All copies of the printed material shall be made without alteration or abridgment and must retain acknowledgment of the copyright.
2. The school or college shall not sell, hire or otherwise derive revenue from copies of the material, nor distribute copies of the material for any other purpose.
3. The restricted waiver of copyright is not transferable and may be withdrawn in the case of breach of any of these conditions.

FOREWORD

This policy statement is designed to support effective road safety education programs in New South Wales government schools.

The New South Wales Government's plan for all road safety programs for the 1990s and beyond, *Road Safety 2000*, requires the involvement of the whole community.

The policy acknowledges the valuable role which parents, other community members, government agencies and community organisations have in supporting road safety education programs in schools.

Road safety education seeks to develop positive attitudes and safe behaviours in children and adolescents as present and future road users.

Schools can play an important role in the development of safe road use behaviours through the provision of coherent, sequential road safety education from early childhood through to the senior years of schooling.

The Department of School Education supports the delivery of road safety through teaching and learning programs within the personal development, health and physical education key learning area, and across other key learning areas.

We are confident that road safety education will contribute to a safer future for our students.

RATIONALE

Road trauma is a major community health issue.

The economic, social and emotional costs of road crashes to our society are enormous. In New South Wales (NSW) over the 10 years to 1990 road crashes resulted in 10 400 deaths, 92 000 hospital admissions, 270 000 non-hospitalised injuries and an estimated \$20 billion dollars in financial costs.

Gaining wide acceptance of personal and community responsibility for road safety is essential.

Education is an important strategy in reducing the rates of death and injury among road users. It is an effective means of developing positive attitudes and safe behaviours in children and adolescents.

To ensure their effectiveness, school road safety education programs need a strategic focus. They should reflect identifiable trends and be directed towards identified student outcomes. These program elements are outlined below.

Focus

Three key groups of factors are identified as contributing to road crashes. These are human factors, environmental factors and vehicle factors. Research indicates that human factors are a major cause in 90% to 95% of accidents.

There is overwhelming evidence to suggest that attitudes, as expressed in inappropriate and high risk behaviours, contribute to the majority of road accidents across all age groups.

Behavioural and attitudinal change should be the strategic focus for all road safety education programs.

Trends

Projections for NSW in terms of road use, road vehicles and road users indicate that there will be:

- increases in population and greater urbanisation;
- increases in vehicle numbers and in total vehicle kilometres travelled;
- changes in vehicle design; and
- changes in the technologies of law enforcement and traffic management.

Road accident statistics are published by both the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government. They provide information on the nature, frequency and effects of road accidents across age groups and other categories.

This information can help to guide programs and resource development in road safety education.

Student outcomes

Road safety education is the teaching and learning process which leads students to behave in safe and responsible ways on the road as passengers, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

School road safety education from early childhood through to the senior years of schooling is directed towards the achievement of identified student outcomes.

Schools will provide teaching and learning programs which lead to the achievement of student outcomes as specified in the NSW Board of Studies syllabuses for the key learning area personal development, health and physical education.

Students will develop:

- knowledge and understanding of road use and road environments;
- skills for road use in varying traffic environments;
- responsible attitudes, values and road use behaviours.

POLICY STATEMENT

The New South Wales Government's strategic plan *Road Safety 2000* recognises that traffic accidents are a major community health issue. Particular concern arises from the disproportionate rates of death and injury among young people.

The Department of School Education can contribute to the reduction of injuries and fatalities by providing coherent and effective road safety education.

The planning and delivery of road safety education programs in government schools will take the following principles into account.

1. Addressing the developmental needs of students, road safety education will:

- reflect a partnership between parents and teachers in which parents participate fully;
- begin from infancy;
- be integrated into the curriculum in early childhood education programs;
- satisfy the needs of very young children for realistic, clear and specific communications about safe behaviours;
- form coherent, sequential and continuous programs throughout early childhood, primary and secondary schooling;
- be appropriate to the age, physical development, level of understanding and particular needs of individuals and culture groups;

- include students of all language, racial and cultural backgrounds;
- relate specifically to the travel needs of students with learning difficulties and disabilities;
- consider the life experience of both female and male students;
- encourage the development of decision-making skills and the choice of safety in road use at all times;
- emphasise the values and the responsible attitudes which are necessary to the safe use of vehicles and the safe sharing of roads.

2. Reflecting government, school and community input, road safety education will:

- form part of an integrated framework of community-wide road safety programs which will incorporate improvements to roads, road environments, vehicle technology, safety equipment and traffic management as well as further developments in legislation, enforcement and public education programs;
- operate as a health-promoting program which involves the school community and responds to local needs;
- complement other relevant government policies such as those relating to drug and alcohol use.

3. Delivering whole-school, curriculum-based road safety education programs:

- within the 'host' key learning area of personal development, health and physical education;
- through integration with other key learning areas;
- as separate programs which address specific road safety issues and student welfare needs.

These programs will include the following modes of road use:

- passenger,
- pedestrian,
- cyclist and
- driver.

High schools should refer to the Department of School Education *Driver Education Curriculum Statement and Guidelines; 1994* for details on school-based driver

education.

4. Enhancing school road safety education programs through:

- active student participation in the learning activities;
- provision of opportunities for students to demonstrate learning and positive attitudes in real environments and situations;
- recognition of and support for positive, life-valuing behaviours and attitudes among students;
- use of a wide range of teaching and learning strategies;
- use of appropriate and stimulating resources, and a variety of instructional media;
- support from school councils and parent groups;
- role modelling of positive behaviours by adults and peers;
- input from specialist persons such as those involved in emergency services;
- support from government departments and community organisations;
- use of specialist teachers including teachers of English as a second language and community languages teachers;
- coordination by a staff member to whom this responsibility has been assigned;
- availability of consultancy support to teachers and school communities;
- ongoing assessment to ensure that outcomes are achieved and that teaching and learning activities are always relevant;
- provision of instruction in road safety in preservice teacher education programs and in training and development programs for practising teachers.

5. Addressing government road safety legislation and law enforcement by:

- encouraging students to wear bicycle safety helmets;
- emphasising the importance of wearing seatbelts and using other approved restraints in motor vehicles;
- addressing drug and alcohol use within school drug education programs;

- highlighting speed limits and other traffic regulations;
- addressing the importance of maintaining vehicles in good operating condition.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

The School

Each school is located within a unique road and traffic environment and may enrol students from an extended feeder area.

The school responds to its local traffic environment and to student travel needs through its road safety education programs and in its management practices. Teaching and learning activities are provided primarily through personal development, health and physical education key learning area programs.

The school community comprises the principal, the director of schools, students, staff, parents and citizens.

The principal is responsible for management of the curriculum and the organisation of the school to provide for the needs of all students.

School community members interact with government and non-government agencies, representatives of business and industry, and the public. Members of the wider community are a valuable resource to assist schools in providing road safety education. In developing plans and programs for road safety education, schools will recognise the importance of consulting community groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and non-English speaking background communities.

Parents play a key role in the development of their children's attitudes and road use practices. Parents can support road safety education through participation in school activities and involvement in parent organisations and school councils.

Government schools in NSW receive curriculum support through regional road safety education consultancy services and system-wide curriculum and policy advice through the State Office of the Department of School Education.

The Community

This policy statement encourages members of the community to be actively involved in road safety education and to be committed to supporting road safety education programs in schools.

The creation of safe traffic environments in the vicinity of schools requires the support of all who use the roads within those areas.

Members of the community are able to recognise potential traffic dangers and

participate in community efforts to improve road safety.

All citizens can contribute to the safety of students by modelling safe and appropriate behaviours.

The Government

The New South Wales Government provides planning and support structures for state-wide road safety.

Road safety education is an important strategy within the NSW Government's plan for road safety. The overall executive responsibility for leading the development and implementation of the *Road Safety 2000* plan lies within the portfolio of the Minister for Roads and Transport and rests with the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).

The RTA Road Safety Advisory Council is an intersectoral group which advises the Government on all key areas of road safety. The Council includes representatives from education, health, police, local government and road safety advocacy groups.

The Road Safety and Traffic Management Directorate of the RTA deals with policy development and strategic planning for road safety. The Road Safety Bureau and the four regional administrations of the RTA support road safety education services throughout the state.

The Department of School Education is responsible for the delivery of road safety education in NSW government schools. The framework for the delivery of education is determined by the Department's corporate plan *Education 2000*. The Curriculum Directorate of the Department liaises directly with the Road Safety and Traffic Management Directorate of the RTA in the development of teaching and learning programs in road safety.