SAFE is an extraordinary teen high school focused program that is led by teens, managed by teens, and directed by teens. The value of their SAFE experience goes beyond the walls of school as youth develop leadership skills, interpersonal talents, and critical thinking intelligence.

Peer to peer networking and communication is a proven successful way to reach teens with positive messages as they make critical decisions about safe driving habits. SAFE focuses on building a collaborative environment designed to get teens to buckle up, every trip, every time. Saving lives is a high calling with rewarding outcomes.

Congratulations to all our SAFE students, sponsors, and staff for another in a long line of successful school years. Enjoy your worthy accomplishments knowing you made a difference, for teens, parents, friends, family, and the community.

Peer to peer networking and communication is a proven successful way to reach teens with positive messages as they make critical decisions about safe driving habits.

Thank You to Our Partners
I pledge to always wear my seatbelt and not text and drive.
It’s been a year, hasn’t it? Keeping the SAFE program going strong through the last two school years that were massively impacted by the pandemic took dedication and outside-the-box thinking from the SAFE specialists who worked to keep schools engaged and active as traffic crashes are still a leading cause of serious injuries and death for teens.

In the 2021-2022 school year, 136 schools signed up for the SAFE program. Unfortunately, mainly due to issues stemming from the pandemic, 30 of those schools were unable to complete both surveys for the program. Looking on the bright side, 106 schools in nearly half of Kansas’ counties did have a successful SAFE year, despite the challenges they faced.

The SAFE program brought opportunities for high school students to listen to Miss Kansas 2021 Taylor Clark speak about her experience of being in a crash and emphasizing the need to always buckle up and never drive drowsy.

ThinkFast Interactive visited several schools with its energetic, fast-paced, and crowd-pleasing game show that taught students vital traffic safety facts about distracted driving, speeding, and seat belt use.

SAFE schools also were able to bring in Garry Parker, retired Texas law enforcement officer, to help motivate students to wear their seat belt, practice safe driving behaviors and be positive role models to their peers.

Having regional SAFE specialists and a SAFE student board involved in the planning of the Kansas Teen Transportation Safety Conference brought new synergy to our efforts. Their work gave us a foundation from which we will continue building relationships with school and communities across Kansas. We are excited to expand the student board’s involvement in the program in the future!

We will continue to support SAFE schools, sponsors, and students as the world gains new teen drivers each day. I thank you all for your dedication to traffic safety and keeping our youth SAFE on Kansas roadways!
SAFE Speaks

The “SAFE Speaks” competition invited high school seniors across Kansas to choose a traffic safety topic and create a virtual 5-10 minute presentation to share with their communities. Participants selected topics such as distracted driving, seatbelt use, drunk driving, and inexperienced drivers. The presentations were judged by a panel of safety professionals.

The Kansas Sheriffs Association, along with support from the AT&T “It Can Wait” program, provided $10,000 in scholarships for the “SAFE Speaks” competition. The first through fourth place winners (listed above) will receive a $1,250 scholarship. Five other presenters will receive a $1,000 scholarship.

Our association is totally committed to SAFE and truly believe the program saves lives every day. We are very proud to be able to provide these scholarships and as far as our part plan on awarding the five scholarships annually. The $1,000 scholarship winners are:

- LYNDSEY BUECHMAN Abilene High School
- ALEXIS HATVICK Flinthills High School
- OLIVIA SUMMERS Holton High School
- ISABELLA MATTEUCCI Sacred Heart High School
- ALYSSA MIKKELSON Sacred Heart High School.

Our association is totally committed to SAFE and truly believe the program saves lives every day.

2022 Top Scholarship Winners

FIRST PLACE: BEATRICE TURLEY
Shawnee Mission West High School

SECOND PLACE: ELISABETH JOHNSON
Lansing High School

THIRD PLACE: MAHTEE O’SHEA
St Marys High School

FOURTH PLACE: JOSIE WARE
West Elk High School
2021-2022 SAFE Student Board

The SAFE Student Board consists of individually selected students from the SAFE sponsor. These students then filled out applications in order to become members. SAFE Student Board members assist in developing programs in their schools as well as sharing ideas throughout the state for a more congruent effort for SAFE execution across Kansas. Their role in organizing and spearheading events at the Teen Traffic Safety Conference was tremendous!

The SAFE Student Board presented their “why” and the reasons they participate in SAFE.
Statewide Data

For the SAFE year, 2021-2022, we saw some return to normalcy as far as data collection is concerned. We were able to see an increase in seatbelt usage from the Baseline Survey compared to the Final Survey throughout the state. This was still somewhat of an abnormal year coming off of a year with self reporting. This year we only had direct observation data, however there were still several schools effected by constantly shifting schedules to accommodate for safety protocols.

Statewide SAFE Percent Belted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>84.08%</td>
<td>86.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>82.98%</td>
<td>86.08%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Booster to Belts

Booster to Belts is a program designed to teach young children the importance of wearing a seatbelt and using a booster seat in a fun and interactive environment. Its goal is to increase booster and seatbelt use among children ages 4-8. This year, 3 SAFE clubs presented in their elementary school or community.

Supported by Kansas Sheriffs’ Association
Throughout the year, adult sponsors are encouraged to nominate leaders of their SAFE team that they think exemplifies what it means to be a positive safe driving role model. Monthly winners are chosen by KTSRO. The SAFE Student of the Month is awarded a $25 gift card and the overall winner for the school year receives a $250 scholarship.

Owen Zafuta
Frontenac High School
Nominated by Anni Beasley

Owen has done an amazing job as president of the SAFE Team this year. Owen is a model student for seatbelt safety, and is also a member of the volunteer firefighters. Despite all of his many diverse extra-curricular activities, Owen is continuously the first to volunteer for any duty. Not only does he get to school extra early to get everyone set up for seatbelt surveys, he has given up his lunch time for pledge card signing on several occasions. Owen is the ideal leader for this student-lead organization; he is driven, accountable, and always brings a positive attitude to any situation.

Jena Johnson
Elkhart High School
Nominated by David Long

Jenna Johnson first became a SAFE team member last year as a Junior. I was very impressed by her willingness to help out on the SAFE team and do whatever was asked of her. I decided to ask her to be this years SAFE team co-captain this year. Throughout the year Jenna has done a great job of promoting SAFE. She has excellent talent at communicating with her fellow team members, and is very good at coordinating activities.

Jacey Parker
Elkhart High School
Nominated by David Long

Jacey first joined our Elkhart High School’s SAFE program last year as a Junior. She immediately impressed me with her dedication to the safety of her fellow students. Because of Jacey’s dedication to the SAFE program and her excellence as a student and citizen in our community, I requested she co-lead the SAFE program for the 2021-2022 school year. Jacey has done a great job recruiting fellow students for the program as well as encouraging others to stay safe by wearing their seatbelts, and is available to do whatever I ask of her in order to promote the SAFE program.
Nakaela joined our SAFE team at the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year as a junior. During the year she has shown natural leadership, helping out with many SAFE activities, causing me to ask her to co-lead the SAFE team for the upcoming school year. Recently Nakaela went with myself and another SAFE team member to present the SAFE program at the middle school to the eighth-grade class looking for perspective freshmen team members for the 2022/2023 school year.

Grant has served on our school’s SAFE committee for three years. This is his second year as the head of our SAFE committee. As the chair of the committee he is responsible for the organizing and recruiting for our activities for SAFE. As the sponsor I have been able to let him lead with very little input from me. He works very well with his peers organizing them and keeping everyone involved.

Emma is very helpful, responsible and caring. She is very involved in SAFE at Hill City high school. She has done pledge cards, DoNot text and drive, and other activities.

Mariana is an incredible young woman who gives generously of her time and talents to the SAFE program, Red Ribbon Week, and so many other activities. She has diligently worked on our seatbelt surveys and monthly pledge signings for three years. Not only is Mariana an excellent student, but she readily volunteers to help in any way possible. Miss Escobar is such an asset to Thunder Ridge in many ways.

Hannah recently organized and facilitated our SAFE Santa Pledge Event and is currently planning our second semester events including her own take on SAFE March Madness. She has been a go-to senior for all of our activities this year. She is also a member of the State SAFE board. Very proud of her initiative!
2021-2022 SAFE High Schools

ANDERSON
Anderson County Jr/Sr

ATCHISON
Atchison County
Community Jr/Sr

BARBER
Medicine Lodge Jr/Sr
South Barber

BARTON
Great Bend

BOURBON
Uniontown

BUTLER
Andover Central
Andover
El Dorado
Flinthills
Remington

CHEROKEE
Baxter Springs
Columbus
Riverton

CLOUD
Concordia Jr/Sr

COFFEE
Burlington

CRAWFORD
Northeast
Southeast
Frontenac
Girard
Pittsburg
St. Mary’s Colgan

DONIPHAN
Doniphan West Jr/Sr
Riverside

DOUGLAS
Lawrence

EDWARDS
Kinsley-Offerle Jr/Sr

ELK
West Elk

ELLIS
Hays
Victoria Jr/Sr

ELLSWORTH
Ellsworth Jr/Sr

FRANKLIN
Ottawa
Wellsville

GOVE
Wheatland

GRAHAM
Hill City Jr/Sr

GREENWOOD
Eureka Jr/Sr
Hamilton
Madison

HAMILTON
Syracuse Jr/Sr

HARVEY
Sedgwick

HASKELL
Satanta
Sublette

JACKSON
Holton
Jackson Heights
Royal Valley

JEFFERSON
Jefferson West
McLouth
Perry Lecompton

JEWELL
Rock Hills

JOHNSON
Blue Valley
Olathe North

KIOWA
Kiowa County

LINN
Pleasanton Jr/Sr

LYON
Hartford Jr-Sr
Northern Heights
Olpe

MITCHELL
Beloit Jr/Sr

MONTGOMERY
Caney Valley

MORTON
Elkhart

NEMAH
Centralia
Nemaha Central
Wetmore Academic Center

NEOSHO
Erie

OTTAWA
Bennington
Tescott

Middle Schools

BARTON
Great Bend

JACKSON
Holton

MCPherson
Smoky Valley
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POTTAWATOMIE
Flint Hills Christian
Rock Creek Jr/Sr
St Marys Jr/Sr
Wamego

RILEY
Manhattan
Riley County

SALINE
Ell Saline
Sacred Heart Jr/Sr
Salina South
Southeast of Saline

SHAWNEE
Rossville
Seaman
Shawnee Heights
Silver Lake Jr/Sr
Washburn Rural

STAFFORD
Macksville
St John
Stafford

SUMNER
Belle Plaine
Caldwell
Wellington

THOMAS
Brewster

WABAUNSEE
Wabaunsee

WOODSON
Yates Center

WYANDOTTE
Sumner Academy
Wyandotte

Participating SAFE Schools

# Schools in County	Participating County	106 Total Schools	51 Total Counties
Greetings Kansas SAFE!

What a pleasure it has been to meet so many amazing students, teachers, and sponsors from across the state this year. As a future teacher, I most enjoyed visiting 23 of your high schools to spread awareness about buckling up and driving safe. Additionally, I grew my own personal knowledge on crash rates amongst teens and the destructive effects of drowsy driving. Most of all I learned from you! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share about this invaluable cause all over our great state.

Growing up in St. John I had always enjoyed SAFE presentations, especially from Miss Kansas, and it was so special to get to be in this position for the last year. I recognized that the most impactful way to spread the message of SAFE was to share my own story of when my mother and I were in a crash and our seatbelts saved not only our lives, but the life of the other driver involved that day. From that moment on, I have worn my seatbelt every trip, no matter how far. Including the 40,000+ miles I traveled in 2021-2022!

No matter the corner of the state, you all welcomed me into your communities and schools with open arms with posters, lunches, school pets, safety vests, and many, many sweet gifts and notes in-between. All these items are tucked safely away and whenever I see them, it is an extra reminder to buckle up and avoid driving drowsy.

Perhaps my favorite event this year was the Teen Conference in Topeka! What an amazing school year you all have had. It was so inspiring to see you all brainstorming about taking SAFE to the next level in your communities in addition to reflecting on the great work that has already been done. Congratulations to all on a successful year, but do not let today’s success be the endpoint! Perhaps one of the most important things I have learned in life is that once you reach a goal, that is just a sign to set the bar higher. You never know what you can accomplish or change if you keep working towards positive goals with others in mind.

Keep fighting the good fight and bring a friend to work on the cause! I am excited to watch Kansas SAFE continue to grow and challenge teens and people of all ages to make the right choice of wearing their seatbelt every time they get in the car.

Thanks for a great year!
2021-2022 SAFE Enforcement

2021 Middle School ENFORCEMENT

- Teen Seatbelt Citations: 109
- Adult Seatbelt Citations: 332
- Child Seatbelt Citations: 34
- Other Citations: 26
- Speed Citations: 217
- Total Speed Citations: 145
- Total Other Citations: 302
- Total Officers: 234
- Total Agencies: 35
- Total Hours: 534

2022 High School ENFORCEMENT

- Teen Seatbelt Citations: 26
- Adult Seatbelt Citations: 145
- Child Seatbelt Citations: 14
- Other Citations: 137
- Speed Citations: 142
- Total Speed Citations: 217
- Total Other Citations: 302
- Total Officers: 315
- Total Agencies: 59
- Total Hours: 1042.6
Through sessions focused on communication, leadership, team building/recruitment, students were provided with an opportunity to gain the skills and gather the tools necessary to work in their community. With these skills and abilities, Kansas teens have an opportunity to change behavior and save lives. We hope students left with a broader awareness of local, state and national issues surrounding traffic safety issues.

Teens were offered sessions that focused on seatbelt use, drowsy driving, consequences of citations, what to do in a crash, and making good choices. They also enjoyed an afternoon of interactive sessions.
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