

School Leader Press Release



Schools Join Efforts to Increase Seat Belt Use Among Staff and Students

Contact:

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Motor vehicle crashes are a serious concern for adults and youth. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for young people ages 5 to 24.¹ In Utah, unrestrained crash occupants were over 14 times more likely to die in a crash than restrained occupants.² The good news is that using seat belts saves lives!³

The Together for Life Project is designed to confront the seriousness of not wearing a seatbelt and build hope that communities can work together to reduce risk and create positive change. The goal of the Together for Life Project is to increase seat belt use in rural Utah and the school district has joined these efforts.

According to the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Statewide Survey, most students in the county wear a seat belt.⁴ Most students want people they care about to always wear a seat, and most students agree that if they were in a vehicle with their friends, and someone was not wearing a seat belt, they should ask them to wear a seat belt.⁴ Further, most adults always wear a seat belt.⁵ Most drivers believe it is their responsibility to get others to wear a seat belt.⁵ Most drivers are asking others to wear a seat belt. And, most families have a rule about always wearing a seat belt.⁵

School leaders want to promote these common and healthy behaviors among students and school district staff.

To learn about the Together for Life Project, visit togetherforlifeutah.org.

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References

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4. State of Utah Department of Human Services Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (2021). *Student Health and Risk Prevention, Prevention Needs Assessment Survey Results*. Retrieved from <http://dsamh.utah.gov>
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