

**IF YOU FEEL DIFFERENT
YOU DRIVE DIFFERENT**



Our School District promotes the safety and dignity of their students while operating motor vehicles. To receive a parking permit, we require a conversation about **IMPAIRED DRIVING** between parent/guardian and student.

The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration's campaign **'IF YOU FEEL DIFFERENT YOU DRIVE DIFFERENT'** aims to educate Americans about the dangers of driving while impaired by drugs, and to promote safer choices. Any time you consume a substance that makes you feel different, you aren't safe to drive. Impaired driving isn't a mistake; it's a crime.

Make sure your young driver is aware of the leading causes of teen crashes. Have a conversation about the following.

- *1. **Driver inexperience** (most insurance companies consider a "new driver" to be until 25 years old)
2. **Driving with passengers** (for the first 12 months of licensing, only transport one passenger is allowed, unless the driver is accompanied by a parent or guardian or the passengers are the driver's dependents (children)- Why? The more passengers the more likely of a crash due to distraction)
3. **Night time driving** (extra nighttime driving practice with your teen)
4. **Not using seat belts** (NJ law requires all drivers and passengers, front and back seat, to wear a safety belt)
5. **Distracted driving** (electronic devices, eating, emotional/upset, No use of cell phones (hand-held or hands-free))
6. **Drowsy driving** (sleep is often the first thing to go with a teen's busy schedule, teens should average 9 hours of sleep a night)
7. **Reckless driving** (lack of skills, lack of experience, distractions)
8. **Driving under the influence (includes but not limited to: alcohol, marijuana, drugs, sleep aids, Rx side effects, cough medicine, household chemicals)**

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By signing this contract, I acknowledge that a conversation about Responsible DRIVING has taken place on the above 8 topics.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, whether obtained legally or illegally, pose a danger to themselves, their passengers, and other road users. NHTSA is determined to put an end to impaired driving - to save lives. **Remember: Impairment is impairment, no matter the substance.** (NHTSA.gov)

You can't drive safely if you're impaired. That's why it's illegal everywhere in America to drive under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, opioids, methamphetamines, or any potentially impairing drug - prescribed or over the counter.

Learn the latest research on drug-impaired driving, misconceptions about marijuana use, and what you can do to make smarter choices to drive safely. NHTSA.gov If you think driving while high won't affect you, you are wrong: It has been proven that Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects - slows reaction times, impairs cognitive performance, and makes it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane. NHTSA.GOV