



# Sample School Newspaper Story

## How to Use

Story template for your school to localize and run in your high school newspaper or online publication.

A recent survey found that while 97 percent of teens say they know texting while driving is dangerous, 43 percent admit to doing so. 77 percent of those teens also said they've seen their parents text and drive – and 75 percent say it is “common” among their friends.<sup>1</sup>

But did you know texting drivers are **23 times more likely** to be in an accident?<sup>2</sup>

(Name of school) students are no different than other drivers. Texting while driving happens regularly on our local streets and highways. Here are some responses we received when we asked fellow students about this dangerous and deadly practice:

**Do you text and drive or do you have friends who do this? If so, how often?**

- (Interview 2-3 students and get their short response.)

**Why do you think students text and drive even though they know it's dangerous and life threatening?**

- (Interview 2-3 students and get their short response.)

**What word of warning do you have for others about texting from behind the wheel?**

- (Interview 2-3 students and get their short response.)

Safety comes first when you're in the driver's seat. To help battle unsafe texting, following are a few key tips:

- **Be smart.** Don't text and drive. No text message is worth a life.

- **Be in control.** Remember it's your phone. You decide if and when to send and read texts so take control. Download [AT&T DriveMode®](#) – an app designed to curb the urge to text and drive.
- **Be caring.** Don't send a text when you know your family member, friend or co-worker is driving.
- **Be a BFF.** Friends don't let each other text and drive. Visit [www.itcanwait.com](http://www.itcanwait.com) and pledge not to text and drive, and encourage your friends to do the same. Check out the resources on that page – such as a documentary that shows life-altering effects of texting behind the wheel – and spread the word, too.

Along with exercising good judgment, new applications are coming out to help curb the urge to text while driving. One example is the AT&T DriveMode® app. It can be set-up to automatically send a customizable reply to incoming messages when the vehicle starts moving 25 mph. Then when the vehicle slows to less than 25 mph for 5 minutes, the app will turn off and the user can view the calls and texts.\*

Whether using new applications, taking a pledge or making it a personal practice, the next time you think about sending or answering a text while operating a vehicle, just remember – **it can wait**. It's not worth losing your life or taking someone else's.

<sup>1</sup> AT&T Wireless Survey [http://www.att.com/Common/about\\_us/txtng\\_driving/att\\_teen\\_survey\\_executive.pdf](http://www.att.com/Common/about_us/txtng_driving/att_teen_survey_executive.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Research: [www.vtti.vt.edu](http://www.vtti.vt.edu)

\* Data and text messaging charges may apply for download and app usage. Standard messaging rates apply to auto-reply messages. AT&T DriveMode is free to AT&T customers only. Compatible device required.