

Albemarle County Driver Education
Behind the Wheel Enrollments

Year	Albemarle	Monticello	Western	Total
2008-2009	318	98	134	550
2007-2008	390	132	169	691
2006-2007	399	121	175	695
2005-2006	449	144	180	773
2004-2005	410	144	187	741

First Year Crash Rates for Albemarle, Stafford, and Prince William Counties
Since Implementation of Parent Seminars in 2005

School	2004	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007-2008
Battle Field H.S.	---	8.3	5.1	2.67
Brentsville District	28.4	8.4	3.6	1.01
Forest Park H.S.	13.09	5.9	5.0	.71
Freedom H.S.	----	7.8	1.2	.93
Garfield H.S.	18.25	7.5	3.8	2.0
Hylton H.S.	13.76	9.3	4.3	3.14
Osbourn Park	15.94	6.3	2.5	1.97
Potomac H.S.	14.09	5.6	3.4	2.68
Stonewall Jackson H.S.	20.13	9.6	4.2	4.76
Woodbridge H.S.	14.72	6.3	4.8	2.75
<i>Prince William Total</i>	17.3	8.3	6.0	2.26
Brook Point H.S.	21.16	8.9	4.5	2.48
Colonial Forge	19.07	9.5	4.2	.53
Mountain View High	---	---	3.7	2.81
North Stafford	19.61	12.7	7.8	1.37
Stafford High	20.08	8.8	4.9	3.16
<i>Stafford Total</i>	20.0	10.0	5.0	2.07
Albemarle High	26.91	16.6	11.4	4.32

Monticello	20.95	10.7	5.1	3.7
Western Albemarle	17.55	9.6	3.8	4.76
<i>Albemarle County Total</i>	21.80	12.3	6.8	4.3
<i>Virginia Average</i>	19.4	10.5	7.5	4.6

The dramatic decline in teen crash rates over the last 4 years can be attributed to the increase of parent seminars in Virginia. To date, thirty-eight counties in Virginia have adopted some form of Parent Seminar to emphasize the importance of parents supervising their teens a minimum of 45 hours before allowing them to drive alone. Effective January 2010, Virginia statute requires five Northern Virginia counties to provide mandatory parent seminars. If their crash rates decline the way Albemarle, Stafford and Prince William counties have declined, it is likely Virginia will require all counties to comply within several years.

Note: 2008-2009 crash statistics should be available around December 1st. The statistics will be forwarded to School Board when available.

National Response:

Senator Charles Schumer of New York has proposed a bill that national standards for driver education be established. Several states have already adopted the Virginia curriculum and look for Virginia to play a big role in the movement for improved teen traffic safety. Current discussions include increasing the classroom time from thirty-six hours to forty-five hours, which is already the practice in Albemarle. Behind the wheel hours may increase from fourteen to twenty.

Texting While Driving:

In response to several parents and David Slutzky, Richard Wharam has begun handing out the YouTube website address for the British Public Service announcement on texting while driving at Parent Seminars. This way parents can view the PSA and make a decision about whether or not they want their teens to view it. The video is rather graphic. The address is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLdF9hVxjno>.

Seat Belt Survey

A seat belt survey conducted on October 14th at Albemarle High School revealed that 95% of AHS students buckled their safety belts leaving the parking lot as compared to 80% of adults.