



The Mississippi High School Athletics Association (MHSAA)
SUPPORTS AN INCREASED EFFORT TO MAXIMIZE
TEEN SEAT-BELT USE
Resolution

Whereas, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults in the United States, and many of these deaths are preventable;

Whereas, the fatality rate in the United States for drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 years, based on miles driven, is four times the fatality rate for drivers between the ages of 25 and 69 years;

Whereas, the majority of teen driver crashes in the United States are due to driver error and speeding, and 15 percent of the crashes are due to drunk driving;

Whereas, drivers who have been drinking have lower rates of seat belt use;

Whereas, roughly two-thirds of the teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes in the United States each year do not use seatbelts;

Whereas, approximately 63 percent of teen passenger deaths in the United States occur while other teenagers are driving;

Whereas, teen passenger seat belt use is significantly lower than teen driver seat belt use;

Whereas, regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and to reduce serious injury and fatalities in motor vehicle crashes;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to raise awareness and to reach teenagers, parents, and teachers to influence change in risky driving behavior in order to reduce the number of teenagers killed on Mississippi's roadways each year; now, therefore, be it

Be it therefore resolved by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, that the Mississippi High School Activities Association supports the goals of the Jackson Teen Seatbelt Coalition to increase teen seat belt use in Jackson, MS and Further Resolved that MHSAA encourages the citizens of the State of Mississippi to observe the Primary Seatbelt Law; on this the 6th day of November in the year 2008.

Lonnie Tillman, President

Ennis H. Proctor, Executive Director