



Proudly part of

**Panhandle**  
Public Health District

## News Release

April 26, 2024

For more information, contact: Janelle Visser at 308-487-3600 Ext. 105 or [jvisser@pphd.ne.gov](mailto:jvisser@pphd.ne.gov)

### **The Nebraska Panhandle needs increased access to Driver's Ed**

We all know the importance of driving safely on our Panhandle streets and highways. All Panhandle residents can help with this effort in many ways. One area of focus is around teen education. Parents are in the best position to help their teens to become safe, smart, and skilled drivers. Parents can also encourage driver's ed classes.

Only 20% of Panhandle teens take Driver's Education courses compared to the state average of 50%. Driver's Education reduces crashes and traffic tickets enhancing individual and community safety.

### **What can parents do?**

- Complete a parent survey accessible here: <https://tinyurl.com/ypxrakpd>
- If Driver's Education is available and accessible to your child, encourage they take it!
- Advocate for all Panhandle residents to buckle up, slow down, and be aware of your surroundings – it can save a life!

### **Why is this a concern to you and Panhandle residents?**

Scotts Bluff & Box Butte counties rank top 10 in Nebraska for crashes due to improper driving, speed, and distraction. (Data source: Nebraska Dept. of Transportation County Level Vehicle Miles Travel, 2016-2020).

To learn more, visit [www.pphd.ne.gov](http://www.pphd.ne.gov) or call Janelle Visser at 308-487-3600 Ext. 105.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.