



Why Maine Needs to Provide Traffic Safety Education in Its Schools

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is supporting the Act to Provide Traffic Safety Education in Maine Schools, also known as the Traffic Safety Education Act.

The purpose of the Traffic Safety Act is to provide students in Maine with access to traffic safety education from an early age with the goal of teaching students safe practices and respect for all users of the road. The long-term goal is to reduce the unacceptable number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and make Maine's roadways safer and more enjoyable for all users.

It Will Save Lives.

Bicycle, pedestrian and other traffic deaths and serious injuries are on the rise in Maine, and many of these tragedies could have been avoided by following some basic rules about road safety.

It Will Save Money.

Fewer crashes means fewer deaths and injuries and fewer public dollars being spent on fire and rescue crews. Fewer crashes means less litigation and burden on the court system. And education is a far less expensive safety intervention than re-engineering and rebuilding roads to protect vulnerable users.

It Will Clarify the Rules.

There is no system in place to make sure that people know and understand the basic principles of traffic safety. Telling children to “be careful” and “look both ways” is not enough to keep them safe—we need to present key lessons so that road users now and in the future know the rules and expectations for safe driving, riding and walking.

It Won't Be Expensive.

Using the BCM's traffic safety curriculum teachers can prepare and provide their own one-hour lesson on road safety. Or schools can opt to have one of Maine's many bicycle and pedestrian safety educators come and make a presentation to provide age appropriate content to different grade levels.

It Supports Health, the Environment, and Transportation Choice.

Providing basic traffic safety education in schools will create a generation of Mainers that knows how to be safe while using roadways to walk and bike for health, environmental protection, or as their choice for basic transportation.