



William S. Hart Union High School District

January 3, 2011

TO: All employees who drive District vehicles or who drive in conjunction with their employment with the William S. Hart Union High School District

FROM: Richard Varner

SUBJECT: Distracted Driving

According to the NHTSA (National Highway Transportation Safety Administration) during 2010 nearly 5,500 people were killed and 500,000 more were injured in distracted driving-related crashes. We can not view these as just statistics; they are members of our community, students, neighbors and friends. These lives, and too many others like them, were cut short- not because of malice, but because of carelessness.

There are three main types of distraction:

- **Visual** – taking your eyes off the road.
- **Manual** – taking your hands off the wheel.
- **Cognitive** – taking your mind off what you are doing.

Distracted driving is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing. Examples of distracted driving are:

- Texting or utilizing a cell phone
- Eating or drinking
- Talking with other passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a PDA or navigation system
- Watching a video
- Changing a radio station, CD or Mp3 player

Research on distracted driving reveals some surprising facts:

- In 2008, almost 20 percent of accidents involved some type of distracted driving (NHSTA).
- Using a cell phone while driving, whether it's hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent (University of Utah).

It is the policy of the William S. Hart Union High School District that no employee or volunteer driver shall operate any District vehicle or operate a personal vehicle in the course of their responsibilities and duties with the District in a manner that allows them to knowingly drive distracted. In addition to preserving life and property, safe driving habits will help to avoid disciplinary action and possible revocation of your driving privileges with the District.

If you have any questions, please contact your site administrator or the Director of Transportation.

Thank you.