

Green County Schools to have free breakfast and lunch for students

Green County Board of Education will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

As part of this program, Green County High School, Green County Middle School, Green County Intermediate School and Green County Primary School will offer healthy meals every school day at no cost to the students due

to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for school year 2026-2027.

Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

For more information, you may call Angie Patterson at 270-932-6601 or e-mail at angie.patterson@green.kyschools.us.

School events

From page 1A

For younger students, especially, the start of a school year often brings anxiety, and this will give them a chance to see the building, meet staff, gather school supplies and reconnect with classmates. As in the other schools, the event is from 5 to 7 p.m.

The last back-to-school event is at Green County Middle School on Tuesday, August 4. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to obtain free school supplies, meet teachers and staff and tour the building.

Many organizations, churches and agencies will be on hand at each of the schools to distribute free items, encourage the stu-

dents and help them get off to a great start in this school year.

Greensburg Baptist Church is grilling hot dogs each of the four nights. The hotdogs are free for anyone attending one of the back-to-school events.

The Green County Health Department wants to help students prepare for the new year with a back-to-school bash July 21, 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Students may receive the required immunizations, win prizes and giveaways during this time. Appointments may be made by calling 270-932-4341. The health department is located at 220 Industrial Park Road.

Research high rate of fatal teen driver crashes in Kentucky... and find solutions

MELISSA PATRICK KY HEALTH NEWS

Prompted by data that shows Kentucky's young drivers are involved in fatal automobile crashes that are much higher than the national average, researchers at the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Transportation Center are collaborating to better understand why, with the goal of developing new strategies to improve driving safety.

"The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) 'Traffic Safety Facts: Young Drivers,' showed Kentucky had the highest rate of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes in the nation. The number was far above the national average and higher than that of the surrounding states. According to the report, Kentucky's young driver fatal crash involvement rate was 138.36 (per 100,000 licensed drivers) in 2023 and 104.15 in 2022, compared to the national average of 42.40 in 2023," according to a UK College of Public Health press release.

"It didn't make sense that Kentucky would be so much higher than other states," Caitlin Northcutt, director of the UK DRIVE Lab, said in the release. "We wanted to understand what was happen-

ing and how we could help."

According to the release, fatal teen driver crashes are a complex, multi-layered problem that requires expertise from an interdisciplinary team.

"Rarely does a severe crash result from a single causal factor," Benjamin Blandford, a senior research scientist at the Kentucky Transportation Center, said. "Multiple and overlapping factors generally lead to severe crashes."

For example, he said "57% of teen driver crashes involve roadway departure, and many also include aggressive or distracted driving," according to the release.

Already, the research team has shared early analysis of Kentucky teen driver crash patterns with the state during the development of the 2025-2029 Kentucky Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

The researchers also analyzed the national and state numbers and found that while the national report had overestimated Kentucky's fatal crash rate for young drivers, the state's rate remained far higher than the national average.

"Teen drivers begin learning at a much earlier age now," Ryan Fisher, director of the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, said

in the release. "Our goal is to prevent teen crashes and fatalities, and these findings will help target prevention efforts across the state."

Northcutt, a developmental psychologist and injury prevention researcher with the College of Public Health, said one of the challenges is that teen drivers are still developing the cognitive skills needed for safe driving. This includes attention management, impulse control and decision-making under pressure.

Further, the release says: "In Kentucky, these developmental challenges are intensified by the fact that the state does not require formal driver education. As a result, many teens enter the licensing process with fewer structured opportunities to practice navigating nighttime driving, rural roads, severe weather and high-speed interstates. Northcutt explained that without consistent, guided exposure to these conditions, teens may encounter them for the first time when they are already driving independently, increasing the likelihood of high-risk situations."

This work is part of an ongoing applied research project titled "An Investigation of Teen Driver-Involved Crashes in Kentucky (2020-2024)."

"Traffic Safety Facts: Young Drivers," shows Kentucky had the highest rate of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes in the nation"

GREEN COUNTY

Back to School!

BASH

Get your child's school required immunizations.

Prizes and giveaways!

Community partners and vendors

GREEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JULY 21 8:30-2:30

Call ahead to reserve an appointment. 270-932-4341

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