



Roadways
Into
Developing
Elementary
Students

What is RIDES?

Roadways Into Developing Elementary Students is a math and science based curriculum for kindergarten through eighth grade students. Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) developed the hands-on transportation education program to introduce students to transportation careers. Lesson plans and a trunk of materials are provided to teach students about:

- Transportation, energy, safety, the environment, litter and pollution.
- Curriculum provided meets core standards of math and science required by the state.
- Lesson plans also integrate art, music and reading.

Linda Clifton
RIDES Implementation Coordinator
Lkcliff@bellsouth.net
RIDES@mdot.state.ms.us
(662) 416-1632



Follow us on Facebook.



www.facebook.com/mdotrides

Visit the RIDES Website.



www.gomdot.com/portal/RIDES.html



Public Affairs Division



Roadways Into Developing Elementary Students

History

RIDES was introduced in Mississippi in the summer of 2004 and since then has continually grown. The program has shown great success for teachers and students. MDOT continues to revise and upgrade the RIDES program annually.

- Mississippi is currently the only state with this program.
- The program is implemented in over 300 schools across the state of Mississippi.
- Over 1,000 teachers are utilizing the program.



Get Involved

Teachers can apply for RIDES training by going to MDOT's website, www.gomdot.com/portal/RIDES.html. Applications must be submitted to the RIDES Implementation Coordinator Linda Clifton. The availability of training is on a first come first serve basis.

- At training, teachers receive a trunk of \$1,200 worth of materials to go with the lesson plans. The lesson plans are designed to teach students from kindergarten to eighth grade.
- Teachers actively using RIDES have the opportunity to showcase their students using the program during MDOT's Statewide RIDES Blitz.

Training Opportunities

- Training is offered in the North, South, and Central portions of Mississippi.
- Teachers are given the opportunity to apply for the training during January/February. Letters are sent to all superintendents in Mississippi with notification of trainings and teacher applications.
- Applications to attend training are accepted on a first come first serve basis. Due to the large number of teachers requesting the training, there is a waiting list for those wanting to attend. Those on the waiting list will have the opportunity to attend the training first. When trainings become full, consisting of 40-60 spots, teachers who applied will be put on the waiting list.
- Training is led by certified math and science teachers in the state who are actively implementing the RIDES program in their classrooms.
- Training takes place over two days where teachers receive a trunk of materials, are taught selected lesson plans, and participate in the hands-on activities.
- Due to the large number of teachers participating in RIDES, every two teachers from the same school will share a trunk of materials.

"This is the best activity. I understand it now that I know how it's used in real life."

Partnerships

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health Region 8 Work Activities Center is a beneficial partner for RIDES. Clients of the center assemble and deliver the RIDES trunks, which are filled with lesson and activity materials.

- This partnership is an economical solution to the labor-intensive process of producing the trunks and provides Region 8 clients with an opportunity to practice work-related skills, such as sorting, counting, assembling, and working as a team.

AASHTO (American Association of State and Highway Officials) became a partner with RIDES in 2011. AASHTO will participate in distributing the RIDES program to other states who wish to implement the program.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides funding to purchase trunks for teachers working in the ARC region. The funding from the grants goes toward purchasing the trunks, materials, providing trainings, and meals for participants.

