



**Emergency Medical Services
for Children Program**
**Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical
Service Systems**



Date

Dear School Principal,

You might know that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 19 years, and anyone who rides unrestrained in a vehicle is far more likely to be killed or injured in a crash than one who is buckled up. What you might ***not know*** is that preteens are less likely to be buckled up than younger children and adults, and they often have other behaviors that increase their risk, such as distracting the driver, sitting in unsafe positions, and riding with unsafe drivers.

The purpose of this letter and the attachment is to invite the participation of your 5th grade students in an innovative program now being piloted in Maryland that seeks to educate youth so they ride more safely in vehicles. This one - two hour program builds on youths' interest in becoming drivers in the near-future and uses a variety of educational techniques including discussion, hands-on practice, audio-visuals, role plays, and games. Parents' participation is an optional element, but they can greatly help to support their child's safer passenger behaviors.

The attached flyer explains more details about the program. If you would like to ask any questions about this program for your students or to arrange program dates, please contact at.....

Sincerely,