

## What is RIDES?

MDOT developed the hands-on education outreach program to strengthen science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills of students in grades K-8, while introducing them to careers in the transportation industry. With the RIDES program, students utilize critical thinking skills to solve real-world problems.

The RIDES curriculum and activities are aligned with the National Math and Science Standards, Mississippi Frameworks for Math and Science Education and the Common Core for Math. Unit themes and lesson collections include:

- Classification, Sequencing and Graphing
- Forms of Energy
- Laws of Motion
- Inertia and Safety
- Transportation Careers and the Environment
- Machines, Humans and Transportation
- Litter and Pollution
- Roadway Geometry
- Understanding and Using Maps
- Geocaching



## Get Involved

Applications to attend training are accepted on a first come, first served basis. The application and “Principal’s Agreement” are available on MDOT’s website: [www.gomdot.com](http://www.gomdot.com). To access the agreement on the website, click on “Programs” and then select “RIDES/TRAC.”



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# Roadways Into Developing Elementary Students

## History

RIDES was introduced in Mississippi in the summer of 2004 and since then has continued to grow. Over 1,700 teachers have participated in RIDES training and are currently using the program in their classrooms. The program has shown great success for teachers and students. MDOT revises and upgrades the RIDES program annually. Through a partnership with the American Association of State and Highway Officials (AASHTO), RIDES has expanded to additional states: Louisiana, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Illinois, Virginia, Florida and Nebraska. In July 2014, officials from Namibia, Africa received RIDES training.

## 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. 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.
- AASHTO became a partner with RIDES in 2011 and distributes the program to other states who wish to implement it.
- The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has partnered with MDOT by providing two grants which served teachers in ARC counties. The grants provided the curriculum, training and resource trunks to participating teachers.
- MDOT also partnered with the Tenn-Tom Waterway to provide training for teachers along the Waterway corridor.

## Training Opportunities

- Training is offered in the Northern, Central and Southern portions of Mississippi.
- Each training is led by certified math and science teachers who are using the RIDES program in their classrooms.
- Teachers apply for training in January and February every year. Letters are sent to all superintendents in Mississippi with notification of trainings and teacher applications.
- Training takes place over two days where teachers are taught selected lesson plans and participate in the hands-on activities.
- Once training has been completed, teachers will receive a RIDES trunk which contains over 150 ready-to-use lesson plans and all the resource materials needed for the activities.
- A one day RIDES Conference is available each summer for teachers who have attended RIDES training and want additional training and lesson plans.
- MDOT is also working with state universities to develop a program for pre-service teachers to attend the trainings. Pre-service teachers will receive their RIDES trunk once they take a job in Mississippi.
- CEU credit is available for teachers who wish to purchase.



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