

Parents Can Take Control of Technology

Cell Phone Applications to Limit Distracted Driving

Cell phones now put friends, family, cameras, email, and even the Internet at our fingertips 24 hours a day. Cell phones, however, represent one of the biggest risks to new teen drivers because of the distraction that they can cause. Fortunately, there are many applications available for cell phones that can provide protection from distracted driving by offering a variety of services such as texting-auto response, GPS-activated text/call shutdown, automatic call forwarding to voicemail, and more. Below is a reference list of some, and by no means all, of the top reviewed applications for combating distracted driving available today.

Note: The Virginia Department of Education does not endorse any of the following applications nor do they guarantee a driver's safety by using these applications.

Application	Platform	Price	Features
Text Gauge www.textgauge.com	Android	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Password-enabled application which parents control • Runs in the background and requires a password to control • Application becomes active at speeds of 3 mph and higher • Automatically blocks text, chat and email
Bzyy www.bzyyapp.com	Android	\$.99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a basic text message auto-reply service when manually activated
Otter www.otterapp.com	Android, Blackberry, Nokia Ovi, [Coming soon to iPhone and Win Mobile]	\$4.99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual mode with three one-touch text response buttons • Auto Reply with timer options • GPS Mode (text alerts & phone ringer silenced) • Parental Control Feature (password/GPS) • Easily editable and grouped responses
Drive Safe.ly www.drivesafe.ly	iPhone, Android, Blackberry, Others	\$13.95/yr. individual or \$34.95/yr. family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads emails and texts aloud in real time • One-touch activation • Customizable automatic text response options • Bluetooth/radio transmitter compatible
Teen Safer www.teensafes.com	Blackberry (Android beta testing)	\$2.99/mo. or \$25/year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto-launch "safe drive mode" when paired with any in-vehicle Bluetooth • Restricts inbound and outbound calls to three priority contacts • Automatically replies to inbound texts, emails and calls with a message • Notifies parents once software is installed and each time teen starts and stops driving
Text Arrest www.textarrest.com	Android	Free (Single User) Family Plans: \$4.99/mo. (2-5 users) \$7.99/mo. (6-10 users)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto phone lock while in motion • Auto response options • Web-based monitoring dashboard • Passenger override and emergency override • Custom alerts for parents and geofence location boundary
Textecution www.textecution.com	Android (other devices in development)	\$29.99 (one-time fee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once it recognizes movement of 10 mph or greater disables all texting features • Administrator (parent) is notified if application is uninstalled from the phone • Teen can request permission from administrator for text usage while phone is in motion (e.g., as a passenger in vehicle), which if allowed turns off Textecution for a four-hour period
Key 2 Safe Driving www.key2safedriving.com	Android, Blackberry, Windows Mobile, Nokia (N- and E-Series)	\$99 (one-time fee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluetooth device that plugs into car directly (no GPS requirements) • Allows user to make emergency calls to 911 and two other programmed numbers when activated • Reroutes incoming calls to voicemail and texts to auto-response option • Web-based management profile • Tamper proof: attempts to disable or bypass system are logged and reported • Can link multiple phones to single vehicle (family friendly)