

## **EGUSD and EGPD Partner on "Hands-Free" Enforcement Campaign**

A Message from Law Enforcement:

The Elk Grove Police Department and Elk Grove Unified School District ask drivers to help students stay safe as they walk to and from school by keeping both hands on the wheel and away from cellular telephones. On August 17, 2009, the Elk Grove Police Department and Elk Grove Unified School District Police Services Division kicked off a "hands-free" enforcement campaign to assist students in getting to school safely.

The campaign centers on the 2008 legislation enacting California Vehicle Code Section 23123 that prohibits drivers from using handheld cellular telephones while operating a motor vehicle. Collision statistics indicate that handheld cellular phone use increases the risk of traffic collisions that result in serious injuries and fatalities.

The law allows for motorists 18-years-old and over to use a "hands-free device" while driving. Drivers are allowed to use the speaker function of their phone as long as they are not holding the phone.

Vehicle Code Section 23124 prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using a cellular phone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle. The law allows a driver to use a wireless telephone to make emergency calls to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department or other emergency services.

Law enforcement states that the base fine for the first offense is \$20 and \$50 for subsequent convictions. With the addition of penalty assessments, the fine can be more than triple the base fine amount. The violation is a reportable offense and will appear on a driving record, but a violation point will not be assigned.

The Elk Grove Police Department and Elk Grove Unified School District thank community members who put down their cell phones while driving and comply with the law by using a "hands-free" device.

Please help make the streets safer for everyone.