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Concern grows over teen accidents Undated: June 18, 2007 07:46 AM EDT

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By FMILY ZANGARO

PLAINWELL -- While driver's education is just starting for the summer at Plainwell High School, it is making some more concerned.

Keven Badalamente, the director of the program, said it is a time of learning and stress for many families.

"There's not to be a balance between the student feeling like they're trusted when they're in the car, but then the parents having some type of control knowing what is going on when they're not there," Badalamente bico

Cynthia Porter-Boever's daughter, Heather, is part of the class.

"It is terrifying," Porter-Boever said. 'No matter how good a driver you are you can still be in an accident."

Both Porter-Boever and Badalamente said their concerns elevate with the headlines

This week two West Michigan teens were killed in two different car accidents.

Police said one was caused by the teen running a stop sign. Speed contributed to the other crash.

Badalamente brings those tragedies into the classroom.

"We watch it and talk about what happened," he said. He has some ideas to help parents and young drivers as well.

He suggests writing contracts that set limits and boundaries for your teen, or getting a bumper sticker where other drivers can call in and give reports on how your teen is driving.

And, while a little more complex and pricey, he said you can plug a computer chip into the car and it will record your teens speeds and do GPS tracking in real time.

Some may say the ideas sound extreme, but Badalamente said it goes back to finding the balance for your family.

"I'd rather have my kids mad at me than dead," Porter-Boever said.

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