

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [High School Teacher Hit Student, 16, with His Car and Fled. Teen has Broken Back.](#)

The Pact - March 15, 2026, 4:12 am

High School Teacher Allegedly Hit Student, 16, with His Car and Left the Scene, Leaving the Teen with a Broken Back.

The morning of December 11th began like any other for Landon Cates, a student gliding on his scooter through the familiar streets near Winter Park High School. But at the intersection of Casselton Drive and the busy State Road 436, the ordinary shattered. A car, driven by Benjamin Fottler, a teacher from the very school Cates attended, struck the teen, sending him sprawling before the vehicle sped away into the traffic.

For more than three agonizing months, the driver of that car remained a ghost in the hit-and-run that left a young student injured and a community searching for answers.

Then, on March 10, the law finally caught up. Fottler, 49, was arrested, the quiet life of a teacher collapsing under the weight of a felony hit-and-run charge. He walked free hours later, his \$20,000 bond securing his release, but the questions were only just beginning.

In a chilling call to police made moments after the impact, Fottler allegedly tried to make up a story of confusion. "I hit, I thought, a sign in the median that damaged my... driver-side mirror," he claimed.

But the narrative began to fray when he mentioned his wife. She had taken the same route just 20 minutes later, only to find an ambulance at that very intersection. "Somebody had gotten hit," she had told him. The truth he couldn't escape was now echoing back from his own family.

While the legal system grapples with the case, a stark irony hangs in the air. Orange County Public Schools confirms Fottler remains in the classroom, not on leave. The incident, the school claims, happened off the clock, outside the scope of his job. For the students walking the halls of Winter Park High, the man who stands at the front of their classroom is now the man at the centre of a dark and unresolved mystery.

<https://people.com/teacher-allegedly-hit-student-with-car-left-the-scene-11926353>

Komodo - March 15, 2026, 6:18 am

I wonder if it was intentional or one of those "I'm so fucked" moment and he fled.

Kids nowadays are dicks, I can see it going either way.

The Pact - March 15, 2026, 8:38 am

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There's nothing being mentioned about kids being dicks? I guess you're insinuating maybe the teacher did it deliberately in revenge but there is no indication that it's anything like that.

It doesn't seem the teacher was even HIS teacher. He was riding his scooter to school and the teacher some how just hit him and claimed to think he hit a sign that was in the middle of the road.

Landon's mother, Callista Cates, spoke out, saying her son is still dealing with injuries from the crash and may need surgery. She says the family moved out of their neighbourhood because driving past the crash site and living so close to Fottler was too emotional for Landon.

She is also worried about the emotional trauma the 16-year-old could face if Fottler is still teaching when he returns to school.

<https://www.kbtx.com/2026/03/15/parents-want-teacher-fired-after-alleged-hit-and-run-that-broke-16-year-olds-back/>

Komodo - March 15, 2026, 9:48 am

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Bottom part is my interpretation.

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The Pact - March 15, 2026, 7:18 pm

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I mean....it's in the realm of possibility, but there's nothing in any articles saying that the teacher even had anything to do with that boy. The boy just went to the school the teacher works at, and the teacher supposedly drove carelessly and smashed the back of some student. If he did it on purpose for some kind of revenge then he'd get much more serious charges but as it stands he's still working at the freaken school.

Also it's a hit and run and if you accidentally hit someone with your car and don't stay at the scene to help that person you will get much more serious charges than if you stay, ring the police try to help somehow. Hit and run means actually hurting a person [not as some idiots think just doing damage to a car.]

Komodo - March 15, 2026, 7:59 pm

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The Pact - March 18, 2026, 5:26 am

(Mar 15, 2026 07:59 PM)Komodo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You're thinking about my comment way too much man, didn't even read the article.

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Lmao, okay bud.