Driver Education: “Meeting the Challenges of Today’s Novice Drivers”

63rd Conference on Exceptional Children

Reggie Flythe
Driver Education Consultant
NC Department of Public Instruction
Brief History

• Taught in NC schools since 1957

• Taught by certified teachers until 1992, part of the school day

• Currently about a 50/50 mix of LEA in house programs and contracted commercial driving schools, taught before or after school

• LEAs may charge up to $55 to offset the cost of instruction (fees started in Fall 2011), DPI pays $191.11 per 9th grade ADM
Program should be offered to all physically and mentally qualified persons who:

1. Are at least 14 years, 6 months old
2. Are approved by the Principal
3. Are currently enrolled in school (public, private, charter, federal or home school)
4. Have not previously enrolled in the course
General Statute – 115C-216

• LEAs shall offer noncredit driver education courses in high schools

• LEAs shall include as an item of instructional service….the expense necessary to offer the driver education course
Driver Education Program

• Consists of 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of Behind-the-Wheel instruction

• Must be taught outside the school day, before/after school

• May be taught on weekends, school holidays and summer at anytime during the day, as approved by the LEA
Classroom Instruction

• 30 hours, with a teacher present

• Students/parents/EC teachers need to make driver education teacher aware of disabilities

• Collaboration among staff, student and parents make for best experience

• Driver Education teachers can modify classroom lessons based on student needs
Classroom instruction

- We attempt to teach all who come and differentiate instruction as needed.
- Driver education teachers work with EC specialists as needed to provide support for students.
- During the class, a DMV representative will assess vision and the physical condition of students and review their restricted instruction permits.
RESTRICTED INSTRUCTION PERMIT
AND RECORD OF TIME AND LESSONS IN THE CAR

This permit is valid for use only for instruction by a CERTIFIED DRIVER EDUCATION TEACHER in a DRIVER ED CAR for students under the age of 18. Expires at End of Roadwork Session.

Name as on Birth Certificate

Address

City Zip Eye

Birth Date HT WT Eye Color Hair Color Sex M

Have you ever suffered from a seizure disorder, diabetes, heart trouble, paralysis, fainting, dizziness, or experienced problems with narcotics, other drugs, or intoxicating liquor or received treatment for substance abuse? Yes No

I certify that I have read the above and that the information given is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Principal or Driver Education Teacher

N.C. DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES USE ONLY

Eye Exam 20/40 or better L 20/40 R 20/40 Corrective Lenses Yes No Other

Physical Condition - Shakiness Yes No Hearing Yes No Poor Extremities missing Yes No Stiffness Yes No

Infirmities Noted None List

Referral to Driver License Section for

Date Issued Signature Of DMV Rep.

Class Grade Teacher Grade Teacher

RECORD OF LESSONS IN THE CAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ODOMETER READING AT START</th>
<th>AT END MILES DRIVEN</th>
<th>TIME BEHIND WHEEL AT START</th>
<th>AT END MINUTES DRIVEN AT START</th>
<th>AT END MINUTES OBSERVED</th>
<th>LESSON TAUGHT</th>
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- If student cannot see 20/40 or better, they will fail eye test and given a form to take to an optometrist

- If physical conditions are present, they will be noted by the DMV rep and if needed, students will be referred to the DMV Medical Review Board for further evaluation

- No behind the wheel (BTW) training will be done until vision is corrected to 20/40 or better and/or medical review is completed
Behind the Wheel

• 6 hours of instruction, 6 hours of observation

• Safety First! Thorough evaluation of student in low speed driving environment by driver education teacher

• Academic success/failure does not necessarily reflect the student’s ability to drive

• Most LEAs have access to a vehicle with adaptive controls
Behind the Wheel

• If a student is hearing impaired or has a need to drive alone, arrangements can be made for interpreter, case manager or other support professional to ride along with the instructor.

• For serious conditions that driver educators cannot handle, there are options available.
Specialized Driver Training

• There are several companies that provide specialized training services
• LEAs are responsible for determining the process of providing services to students who need specialized training
• LEAs driver education and/or exceptional children budget is responsible for paying additional costs associated with training
• Students who are working with Vocational Rehabilitation may be eligible for funding for assessment and training
Process for obtaining licensure

- Driver Education Certificate issued to students who successfully complete 30 & 6
- Driver Eligibility Certificate – Student must be making adequate academic progress toward graduation, passing 70% of courses
- Take both to DMV, along with birth certificate, SS card and proof of residence
DMV Requirements

- Knowledge test
- Vision test
- Completed paperwork
- Level 1 learner’s permit issued, must keep for one full year or longer, expires on 18th birthday
Driver Eligibility

- High school students must maintain adequate academic progress throughout HS
- Failure to pass 70% or courses will result in a suspension of permit or license
- Lose Control = Lose License
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**AND RECORD OF TIME AND LESSONS IN THE CAR**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name as on Birth Certificate</th>
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<th>Birth Date</th>
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<th>Eye Color</th>
<th>Hair Color</th>
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I certify that I have read the above and that the information given is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Student ____________________________  Signature of Parent or Guardian ____________________________

Signature of Principal or Driver Education Teacher ____________________________

**N.C. DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES USE ONLY**

- Eye Exam 20/40 or better  
- L 20/  
- R 20/  
- Corrective Lenses  
- Yes  
- No  
- Other  
- Physical Condition - Shakiness  
- Yes  
- No  
- Hearing  
- Yes  
- No  
- Good  
- Poor  
- Extremities missing  
- Yes  
- No  
- Stiffness  
- Yes  
- No  
- Infirmities Noted  
- None  
- List  

Referred to Driver License Section for ____________________________

Date Issued ____________________________  Code ____________________________

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<th>Class</th>
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Date Issued ____________________________  Signature Of DMV Rep. ____________________________  Code ____________________________

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<th>Time Behind Wheel</th>
<th>Time Observing</th>
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GUIDANCE FOR INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN SCHOOL-FUNDED DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- If a student with a disability 14 years of age or older chooses to pursue driver education, the intent should be noted in General Education Program Participation section of the IEP.

- If the student requires accommodations and modifications, including personal assistant, sign language interpreter, etc., these must be provided for classroom and/or behind-the-wheel instruction as needed.

- Students who are at least 14.5 years of age, regardless of disability, should have the option to participate in 30 hours of school-sponsored driver education classroom instruction.

- Students must possess a copy of birth certificate or passport to participate in driver education courses.

- All students must pass the 30-hour class portion and a DMV-administered vision test to be considered for behind-the-wheel training.

- If there are medical, developmental, or cognitive concerns regarding the student’s ability to safely participate in behind-the-wheel training, the parent(s) and the student should be notified:
  - If the parent(s) and student with medical, developmental, or cognitive issues wish to proceed with behind-the-wheel training, the DMV examiner who conducts the school-based vision screening should be notified.
  - The DMV vision examiner will initiate a referral to the North Carolina Driver Medical Review Board if further evaluation of the student’s ability to participate in behind-the-wheel training is warranted.
  - A DMV medical examiner, in collaboration with the student’s physician, will make a determination regarding the student’s ability to participate in behind-the-wheel training.

- If the DMV has identified no medical, developmental, or cognitive concerns about the student’s ability to safely participate in behind-the-wheel training, and the student has passed the in-class portion of the driver education course, behind-the-wheel training should be offered.

- Students must pass 6 hours of behind-the-wheel training to be eligible for a Driver Education Certificate.
Web Resources:

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Driver Education Homepage
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/safehealthyschools/driver-ed/

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Driver Education Curriculum Guide:

North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles Driver Education Class Description

North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles Driver’s Handbook

North Carolina Driver Medical Evaluation Program
http://www.ncdot.gov/download/dmv/MedicalSummary.pdf