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**ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE FOR DRIVER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA**

* **Introduction**
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* **Program Administration Section**
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## 

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**ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE FOR DRIVER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA**

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## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to § [22.1-205. Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205), the Board of Education shall establish for the public school system a standardized program of driver education in the safe operation of motor vehicles. Such program shall consist of classroom training and behind-the-wheel driver training. However, any student who participates in such a program of driver education shall meet the academic requirements established by the Board, and no student in a course shall be permitted to operate a motor vehicle without a license or other document issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles under Chapter 3 (§ [46.2-300](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-300/) et seq.) of Title 46.2, or the comparable law of another jurisdiction, authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle upon the highways.

The vision of the Virginia Board of Education, Department of Education, and other traffic safety advocates is to create an excellent statewide system of public education that derives strength from our diversity and ensures equality of opportunity for each student in a safe and healthy learning environment that prepares all students to be capable, responsible, and self-reliant citizens in the global society. *The 2022 Driver Education Standards of Learning* and the *Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia* provide quality, uniform content, and the administrative requirements for state-approved drivereducation programs. Course content, minimum requirements, and administrative guidelines for classroom driver education and laboratory training (in-car driving and observing; and, if utilized, simulation and multi-car-range instruction), shall follow the Board of Education’s standardized program of instruction as outlined in the *Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia*. The Department of Education’s model driver education curriculum assists teachers in providing a state-standardized program of instruction that meets Virginia’s licensing requirements.  
  
The driver, especially the young driver, continues to be a weak link in automotive safety. Motor vehicle injuries account for more years of productive life lost by students than all other causes.Hospitalization and rehabilitation costs, lost time from school, and other costs associated with long-term injuries create substantial emotional, physical, and financial burdens for families, schools, and the community. The social costs of these senseless tragedies are immeasurable. However, unlike many other public health crises, there is an easy cure. Quality driver education programs and optimized parent involvement help teens gain the basic skills, knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes they need to keep themselves, their passengers, and fellow motorists safe. Effective traffic safety instruction has great benefit for students, parents, and the Commonwealth.  
  
Becoming a driver is a life-changing event. Actual mobility (driving) affects upward mobility (employment). Mobility is also a key factor in the economic and social growth of our country; and while not all jobs require a driver’s license, most job applications do, and having a driver’s license is a common requirement for the sorts of jobs that can lift people out of poverty. In many cases, employers use a driver’s license as a proxy for whether the individual is employable; and many low-income students (especially minorities), lack licenses. This may be due to some public schools not offering in-car driver education services; fees for commercial driving schools are prohibitively high for low-income families; or many people living in poverty, or near poverty, don’t have access to a car to learn how to drive and lack the essential skills needed to pass the road skills test. Public schools in Virginia provide equitable access to high quality in-car instruction at a low cost. School divisions can *cover all operating expenses* by using State Basic Aid to offset vehicle-operating costs and charging a reasonable fee.  
  
Virginia’s driver education curriculum provides new drivers with engaging content that informs choices, improves skills, and attitudes, and produces safer drivers who are “tuned” in, focused and ready to respond to anything that may happen in the driving environment. Successful completion of a state-approved driver education program does not, in itself, make teenagers experienced, responsible drivers. The primary goal of driver education is to create a *culture of safe driving behaviors and attitudes,* improve traffic safety knowledge and skills, emphasize accountability for risk-taking choices, and promote meaningful, guided experiences for becoming safer, more competent drivers who skillfully mitigate risks and reduce crashes, fatalities, and injuries for all drivers in Virginia.  
  
Quality driver education programs include an articulated blend of classroom instruction with strategically-designed performance based laboratory in-car training, in which students seamlessly apply concepts learned “behind a desk” to the realities of driving behind the wheel. This articulated curriculum moves from simple to complex skills, while emphasizing the application of abstract concepts to the realities of driving and the need for proficient skills and safe driving attitudes and behaviors. When *learning is performance based*, students develop a foundation for subsequent learning, which enables them to connect new knowledge to what they already know and build capacity to refine skills for use in more complex settings. The driver education curriculum also emphasizes linking visual search skills, space management, and balanced vehicle movement to risk-reducing driving strategies. Significant attention is given to risk awareness, driver alertness, and responsible actions relative to occupant protection devices, positive interactions with other roadway users, and the physical and psychological conditions that affect driver performance.  
  
*Performance based learning* is an approach to teaching and learning that emphasizes students being able to do, or perform, specific skills because of effective instructional practices. In this framework, students demonstrate the ability to apply or use knowledge, rather than simply knowing the information. Performance based learning typically includes activities and tasks that are authentic and meaningful to the learner. Effective *teaching strategies* require an ongoing process of assessing prior knowledge; planning learning episodes to meet individual and collective needs of diverse students; and implementing and determining the effectiveness of sequenced lessons that meet the individual needs of each student. There are tools in the curriculum to help students meet intended competencies through a combination of engaging learning experiences, modeling, knowledge and skill assessment, parental involvement*,* guided observation, computer simulation, and off- and on-street driving experiences. The ability to move a car skillfully, however, is not the same thing as the ability to drive safely. Driving is a complex psychomotor task requiring mastery of various performance skills, and safe, responsible attitudes and behaviors. It requires identifying, processing, and accurately evaluating risks in the driving environment; developing appropriate responses to minimize these risks; making mature decisions*;* and *gaining experience to predict what actions others may take*. Statistically, teen drivers are involved in a disproportionately high percentage of vehicle crashes. The commonly cited theories to explain this age group’s high crash rate are immaturity, lack of experience, poor decision-making skills, speeding, distraction, poor visual scanning, and a perception of immortality. The *family*, not the school, is in the best position to have a sustained effect on minimizing the risks faced by inexperienced drivers and encouraging responsible behaviors. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on extended supervised practice with a licensed parent or guardian to develop precision in the application of skills and processes to effectively manage risks.  
  
It is human nature that *we learn by example*, and young drivers are most influenced by their parents’ driving behavior. Research shows that to remain collision-free in both low- and high-risk driving environments, parents/guardians must model safe driving behaviors, set rules, use written contracts with consequences, and invest in meaningful guided practice *over a long period of time to turn proficient driving skills into safe driving habits that will last a lifetime*. Parents matter and they must play an active role in helping their children become safe and responsible drivers for life. Schools are in a good position to help parents understand the risks, encourage them to be good role models, and ultimately put a stop to the tragedy of young drivers losing their lives on our roads. To reinforce mastery of skills, teachers should also encourage parents to follow the meaningful guided practice sessions and performance tasks outlined in the [45-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1994/638252104374700000).  
  
The [Driver Education Standards of Learning](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction/driver-education) (SOL) represent what many subject-matter experts, teachers, school administrators, parents, and business and community leaders believe schools should teach and students should learn. The *Driver Education SOL* provide the framework for Virginia’s model curriculum. The driver education curriculum modules are designed to give teachers a comprehensive set of tools, resources and activities that build a variety of learning skills such as: critical and creative thinking; social skills (collaborating with peers); communication skills (participating in group discussions, debates, projects, and role-play); demonstrating comprehension by commenting (orally and in writing) on the material clearly and effectively; and research skills (collecting, organizing, and synthesizing data from various sources).The curriculum includes PowerPoint presentations, student assessments, and other teaching resources such as: games, discussions, worksheets, and lesson extension ideas that deepen students' involvement with a particular lesson concept. The driver education curriculum alone, however, does not guarantee academic success for all students. Teachers must continually refine and improve their teaching methodology to create quality-learning experiences that meet the diverse needs of all learners. Upon request, approved teachers and commercial driver training school instructors are granted access to Virginia’s curriculum. Reproduction of material for instructional purposes in Virginia classrooms is permitted. No online or commercial for-profit use of any part of the curriculum is permitted.  
  
Successful completion of a state-approved driver education program (classroom and in-car), is an educational prerequisite for students under the age of 18 to obtain a driver’s license in Virginia. Upon successful completion of classroom and in-car driver education program requirements and in compliance with all other juvenile licensing provisions (reached minimum age, meets learner’s permit holding period, received 45-hours of guided practice, has parent permissions, etc.,) the in-car driver education teacher may issue the student a *180-day temporary provisional driver’s license*. A copy of the student’s 180-day temporary provisional license will be given to the student/parent; another will be mailed to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for processing; and a third copy will be retained in the student’s school records. The DMV will process the temporary provisional license and send a “hard copy” of the student’s driver’s license to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations court. The court will then notify the student and parent/guardian as to when they must attend the *Driver Licensing Ceremony* as required by § [46.2-336](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-336/) of the *Code of Virginia*. The licensing ceremony is an opportunity for judges to impress upon teenagers and parents/guardians the enormous responsibility that comes with a license to drive. The chief juvenile and domestic relations district court judge may waive the ceremonial requirements of subsection A for each juvenile and domestic relations district court within the district or order that each juvenile and domestic relations district court within the district conduct such ceremony in an alternative manner. In courts where the ceremony has been waived, the DMV shall mail or otherwise deliver the driver's licenses directly to licensees.  
  
If you have questions or need assistance with curriculum, teacher education endorsement courses, or public, private, and correspondence school requirements, please contact the [Virginia Department of Education](https://doe.virginia.gov). For questions concerning commercial driver training school licensing requirements, please contact the [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/driver_training_schools.asp).

**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

## [§ 22.1-205. Driver education programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205/#:~:text=The%20driver%20education%20program%20shall,)%20traffic%20stops%2C%20including%20law%2D).

A. The Board of Education shall establish for the public school system a standardized program of driver education in the safe operation of motor vehicles. Such program shall consist of classroom training and behind-the-wheel driver training. However, any student who participates in such a program of driver education shall meet the academic requirements established by the Board, and no student in a course shall be permitted to operate a motor vehicle without a license or other document issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles under Chapter 3 (§ [46.2-300](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-300/) et seq.) of Title 46.2, or the comparable law of another jurisdiction, authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle upon the highways.

1. The driver education program shall include (i) instruction concerning (a) alcohol and drug abuse; (b) aggressive driving; (c) the dangers of distracted driving and speeding; (d) motorcycle awareness; (e) organ and tissue donor awareness; (f) fuel-efficient driving practices; and (g) traffic stops, including law-enforcement procedures for traffic stops, appropriate actions to be taken by drivers during traffic stops, and appropriate interactions with law-enforcement officers who initiate traffic stops, and (ii) an additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component as part of the classroom portion of the driver education curriculum. However, no student who is (1) at least 18 years of age, (2) an emancipated minor, or (3) an unaccompanied minor who is not in the physical custody of his parent or guardian shall be required to participate in the parent/student driver education component.

2. The parent/student driver education component shall be administered as part of the classroom portion of the driver education curriculum. In Planning District 8, the parent/student driver education component shall be administered in-person. Outside Planning District 8, the parent/student driver education component may be administered either in-person or online by a public school or a driver training school that is licensed as a computer-based driver education provider. The participation of the student's parent or guardian in the parent/student driver education component shall be required in Planning District 8 unless the student is otherwise exempted from participation in the parent/student driver education component pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 1. Outside Planning District 8, the participation of the student's parent or guardian in the parent/student driver education component shall be encouraged but shall not be required. The program shall emphasize (i) parental responsibilities regarding juvenile driver behavior, (ii) juvenile driving restrictions pursuant to this Code, (iii) the dangers of driving while intoxicated and underage consumption of alcohol, and (iv) the dangers of distracted driving. Such instruction shall be developed by the Department in cooperation with the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, the Department of Health, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, as appropriate. Nothing in this subdivision precludes any school division from including a program of parental involvement as part of a driver education program in addition to the minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component.

3. Any driver education program shall require a minimum number of miles driven during the behind-the-wheel driver training.

B. The Board shall assist school divisions by preparation, publication, and distribution of competent driver education instructional materials to ensure a more complete understanding of the responsibilities and duties of motor vehicle operators.

C. Each school board shall determine whether to offer the program of driver education in the safe operation of motor vehicles and, if offered, whether such program shall be an elective or a required course. In addition to the fee approved by the Board of Education pursuant to the appropriation act that allows local school boards to charge a per pupil fee for behind-the-wheel driver education, the Board of Education may authorize a local school board's request to assess a surcharge in order to further recover program costs that exceed state funds distributed through basic aid to school divisions offering driver education programs. Each school board may waive the fee or the surcharge in total or in part for those students it determines cannot pay the fee or surcharge. Only school divisions complying with the standardized program and regulations established by the Board of Education and the provisions of § [46.2-335](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-335/) shall be entitled to participate in the distribution of state funds appropriated for driver education.

Each school board shall make the 90-minute parent/student driver education component available to all students and their parents or guardians who are in compliance with § [22.1-254](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254/).

D. The actual initial driving instruction shall be conducted, with motor vehicles equipped as may be required by regulation of the Board of Education, on private or public property removed from public highways if practicable; if impracticable, then, at the request of the school board, the Commissioner of Highways shall designate a suitable section of road near the school to be used for such instruction. Such section of road shall be marked with signs, which the Commissioner of Highways shall supply, giving notice of its use for driving instruction. Such signs shall be removed at the close of the instruction period. No vehicle other than those used for driver training shall be operated between such signs at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour. Violation of this limit shall be a Class 4 misdemeanor.

E. The Board of Education may, in its discretion, promulgate regulations for the use and certification of paraprofessionals as teaching assistants in the driver education programs of school divisions.

F. The Board of Education shall approve correspondence courses for the classroom training component of driver education. These correspondence courses shall be consistent in quality with instructional programs developed by the Board for classroom training in the public schools. Students completing the correspondence courses for classroom training, who are eligible to take behind-the-wheel driver training, may receive behind-the-wheel driver training (i) from a public school, upon payment of the required fee, if the school division offers behind-the-wheel driver training and space is available, (ii) from a driver training school licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, or (iii) in the case of a home schooling parent or guardian instructing his own child who meets the requirements for home school instruction under § [22.1-254.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254.1/) or subdivision B 1 of § [22.1-254](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254/), from a behind-the-wheel training course approved by the Board. Nothing herein shall be construed to require any school division to provide behind-the-wheel driver training to nonpublic school students.

## Virginia Board of Education

## [DRIVER EDUCATION STANDARDS OF LEARNING](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.virginia.gov%2Fhome%2Fshowpublisheddocument%2F776%2F637943758317270000&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

## March 2022

**Profile of a Virginia Graduate**

The 2022 *Driver Education Standards of Learning* support the Profile of a Virginia Graduate through the development and use of communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and civic responsibility competencies necessary to inform choices, improve skills and attitudes, and produce safer drivers who are focused and ready to respond to anything that may happen in the driving environment.

Through Driver Education, students will

✔ Acquire in-depth knowledge and essential driving skills. (Content Knowledge)

✔ Obtain a driver’s license and practice effective communication, self-management, social awareness, and responsible decision-making skills. (Workplace Skills)

✔ Foster responsible driving attitudes and display responsible driving behaviors that protect self and others. (Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility)

✔ Explore lifetime learning opportunities in the highway transportation system and the field of traffic safety. (Career Exploration)

**PREFACE**

The Driver Education Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools provides the framework for the Curriculum Guide for Driver Education in Virginia, which defines the skills and competencies necessary to become a proficient user of the highway transportation system. As prescribed by §22.1-205 of the Code of Virginia, the curriculum guide serves as the Board of Education’s approved program of study for public, private, and commercial driver training school programs. Public and private school driver education programs are approved by the Board of Education, and commercial driver training schools are approved and licensed by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. The Driver Education Standards of Learning focus on core concepts and procedures and set clear, concise, and measurable expectations for novice drivers. The standards, which have been refined through public hearings and numerous rounds of feedback from parents, teachers, administrators, and representatives from higher education, are amplified by teachers’ experience, content experts’ input, research, and national standards. Parents are encouraged to work with their children to help them achieve these standards, and teachers are encouraged to use simulation and other technologies to enhance student learning.

A major goal of Virginia’s educational agenda is to create an excellent statewide system of public education that meets the needs of all young people in Virginia. These Standards of Learning chart the course for achieving that objective.

**INTRODUCTION**

Driver literacy is an important life skill. Learning to drive safely is a skill used often throughout life. Cars do not crash; people crash them. The guiding principles for a systematic approach to cultivating safe driving behaviors include deaths and injuries are unacceptable, humans make mistakes, humans are vulnerable, responsibility is shared, and safety is proactive. Every day in Virginia there are at least two deaths, every 12 minutes there is a serious traffic-related injury, and the estimated annual economic impact of motor vehicle crashes exceeds a billion dollars. The mission of Virginia’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is to save lives and reduce injuries through a data-driven strategic approach that uses enforcement, education, engineering, and emergency response strategies. Virginia’s Toward Zero Deaths vision is for all roadway users to arrive safely at their destinations. Making a commitment to zero traffic deaths requires a supporting culture that places safety first and addresses all aspects of safety using a holistic layered approach for safer road users, safer vehicles, safer speeds, safer roads and effective post-crash care.

Becoming a driver is a life-changing event. Actual mobility (driving) affects upward mobility (employment). Mobility is also a key factor in the economic and social growth of our citizens. Unlicensed Virginians struggle to get to grocery stores with fresh produce, vote in elections, open bank accounts and cash checks. Not having a driver’s license is also an often-overlooked reason why economically disadvantaged individuals struggle to rise above poverty. And while not all jobs require a driver’s license, driver license requirements affect many low-income individuals trying to get into the labor market as some employers use a driver’s license as a proxy for whether a person is employable– disqualifying many unlicensed applicants before they even complete an application.

A robust equitable, culturally inclusive, quality public school systems approach to driver education serves the public interest of shared prosperity and the common good and is essential to the individual and collective well-being of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The majority of public schools in Virginia offer classroom driver education in lieu of 36 periods of tenth- grade health education. Conversely, less than 50 percent of Virginia’s public-school students are receiving in car driver education instructional services from their schools. These cuts in public school in-car driver education services significantly impact low-income families as fees for commercial driver training lessons are often prohibitively high, creating inherent barriers to the school-to-career pipeline.

The classroom and in-car driver education standards are intended to help students develop conceptual understanding of safe driving practices and proficient skill-based performance. The standards also stress the abilities to reason and connect safe driving skills with safe driving attitudes. Emphasis is placed on linking the skills of visual search, managing time and space, and maintaining vehicle balance. Significant attention is given to awareness of risks, driver alertness, minimizing driver distractions and protecting occupants. Students begin driving by applying basic driving skills in low-to-moderate traffic environments and progress to demonstrating skills in more complex traffic situations. The ability to move a car skillfully, however, is not the same as the ability to drive safely.

Successful completion of a state-approved classroom and in-car driver education program does not make a teenager a responsible, experienced driver. Traffic safety education involves family, community, industry, government, and personal factors such as motivation and maturity. Evidence shows that often it is not poor driving skills that lead to crashes among this age group, but inexperience, inappropriate attitude, and/or lack of decision-making skills. The family, not the school, is in the best position to have a sustained effect on minimizing the risks faced by inexperienced drivers and encouraging responsible behaviors. Throughout the course, emphasis should be placed on extensive supervised driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or other mentor.

**SAFETY**

Safety must be given the highest priority in implementing the driver education instructional program. Teachers must be vigilant, focused, and able to control the vehicle at all times. Students must practice basic evasive braking and efficient, controlled steering maneuvers in low risk driving environments. For every instructional activity, careful consideration should be given to ensure the use of appropriate training techniques, driving environments, speed, and driving experiences. Selection of safe facilities for instruction and performance requires thorough route and lesson planning, careful management, and constant monitoring. Providing a safe learning environment is an essential part of any performance-based, hands-on driving lesson, whether on a closed driving range, parking lot or public roadway. Students must follow safety guidelines, demonstrate appropriate safety techniques that lead to safe driving habits, and use safety equipment appropriately.

**GOALS**

The purpose of driver education is to provide students with a detailed understanding of the fundamentals of driving and to foster responsible driving attitudes and behaviors. As a result of quality traffic-safety instruction, students will be able to

● demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws governing the operation of a motor vehicle;

● identify and analyze responsible habits and behaviors and understand how physical and psychological conditions affect driver performance;

● apply knowledge, processes, and skills to become safe, competent users of the highway transportation system;

● use visual search skills and a systematic decision-making process to make risk-reducing decisions by adjusting speed and/or position;

● demonstrate balanced vehicle movement through precise and timely steering, braking, and accelerating under a variety of conditions and unexpected circumstances;

● protect self and others by using active and passive vehicle occupant protection systems and display responsible driving behaviors when alone and with peers;

● interact safely with other roadway users by predicting vehicle performance, avoiding conflicts, and minimizing and managing risks;

● identify how advancements in intelligent handling and stability technology systems affect driving practices;

● engage in meaningful, extensive supervised practice to progress from simple to more complex driving skills in low, moderate, and higher risk driving environments; and

● demonstrate an understanding that responsibility is shared, crashes are not accidents, and fatalities and serious injuries are unacceptable and preventable.

**STANDARDS OF LEARNING**

DE.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of Virginia traffic laws, licensing procedures, and other responsibilities associated with the driving privilege. Key concepts include

a) demonstrating an understanding of graduated driver licensing requirements, types of licenses, and required identification documentation;

b) analyzing traffic safety information in the Virginia Driver’s Manual;

c) comparing the Virginia Driver’s Manual information with the motor vehicle section of the Code of Virginia; and

d) investigating the social implications and understanding the civic responsibility of the organ- and tissue- donation designation process.

DE.2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of basic vehicle operating procedures. Key concepts/skills include

a) understanding and sequentially demonstrating pre-driving procedures;

b) comparing starting procedures for automatic and manual transmissions;

c) interpreting and accurately responding to vehicle information, warning, and control devices;

d) applying efficient accelerating, braking, and steering techniques; and

e) demonstrating vehicle securing procedures.

DE. 3 The student will demonstrate the ability to use vehicle reference points and explain how visual referencing skills aid in judging vehicle position and distance when executing basic driving maneuvers for

a) parking;

b) turning;

c) establishing lane position; and

d) backing.

DE. 4 The student will identify how laws of physics (i.e., momentum, gravity, inertia) effect force of impact. Key concepts/skills include

a) analyzing how sitting and hand position affect ergonomics and vehicle control;

b) evaluating how steering, braking, and accelerating positively and negatively impact vehicle control and balance;

c) identifying and accurately compensating for shifts in vehicle load (from side to side, front to rear, and rear to front) that affect vehicle performance;

d) demonstrating how to prevent and correctly manage front tire traction loss (understeer) and rear tire traction loss (oversteer); and

e) analyzing the cause and severity of types of collisions, (i.e., head-on, near-frontal, broadside, rear-end, rollover, sideswipe).

DE.5 The student will demonstrate the ability to manage visibility, time, and space to reduce driving risks and avoid collisions. Key concepts/skills include

a) demonstrating targeting and tracking skills;

b) synthesizing information visually from the driving environment using the Search, Evaluate and Execute in Time (SEEiT) space-management decision-making process;

c) applying following distance, time and other space management concepts;

d) selecting appropriate speed, maintaining adequate space, and skillfully judging time and distance to safely execute basic driving maneuvers;

e) estimating time and space needs for passing; and

f) identifying and adeptly responding to open and closed spaces and changes to line-of-sight and path-of-travel.

DE.6 The student will demonstrate skills to make appropriate adjustments when approaching controlled and uncontrolled intersections, curves, work zones, railroad crossings, and hills with line-of-sight and path-of-travel limitations. Key concepts/skills include

a) analyzing and applying right-of-way rules and demonstrating appropriate communication skills;

b) displaying responsible actions and safe response to roadway signs, signals, and markings;

c) assessing and managing slope/grade of terrain; and

d) modifying vehicle position and speed to manage the effects on momentum, balance, and control.

DE.7 The student will identify the unique characteristics of an expressway and apply risk management driving strategies. Key concepts/skills include

a) managing different types of interchanges (e.g., diamond, trumpet, cloverleaf);

b) entering, merging, and exiting without interrupting traffic flow, preparing for variable and higher speeds and managing toll facilities;

c) selecting appropriate speed, correct lane, lane position, changing lanes on multi-lane roadways, and detecting and avoiding highway hypnosis; and

d) demonstrating an understanding of the integrated numbering system for highways within the nationwide grid in the contiguous United States.

DE.8 The student will demonstrate the ability to communicate presence and intentions to other highway transportation users. Key concepts/skills include

a) interpreting vehicle position and driver action;

b) utilizing vehicle communication devices; and

c) demonstrating hand signals for slow/stop, right turn, and left turn.

DE.9 The student will analyze and describe the physiological, psychological, and cognitive effects of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs and their impact on a driver’s awareness of risks, and involvement in collisions. Key concepts/skills include

a) evaluating the impact of prescription and nonprescription medications on mood, personality, risk taking, coordination, judgment, reaction time, and driver performance;

b) demonstrating an understanding that driving while impaired by any substance (legal or illegal drugs) places the driver and others in harm’s way.

c) researching the effects of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs on vision and space management;

d) analyzing how the synergistic effects of using two or more drugs at the same time can amplify the impairing effects of each drug; and

e) examining physiological and biological factors that influence how alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs are absorbed, metabolized, and eliminated from the body.

DE. 10 The student will identify and analyze the legal and economic consequences associated with alcohol, marijuana, and other drug use while driving. Key concepts/skills include

a) analyzing the impact of positive and negative peer pressure;

b) describing the mediating influence of refusal and peer-intervention skills on preventing alcohol, marijuana, and other drug misuse;

c) comparing Implied Consent, Zero Tolerance and Use and Lose laws and demonstrating an understanding of why driving while impaired is illegal;

d) researching Administrative License Revocation, loss of license, ignition interlock and other licensing restrictions,

e) analyzing court costs, insurance requirements, Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program referral, and other penalties associated with impaired driving; and

f) evaluating the effectiveness of alternative safe transportation programs as countermeasures for reducing impaired driving.

DE.11 The student will recognize the consequences of aggressive driving and the influence of emotions on driving behaviors. Key concepts/skills include

a) evaluating how stress and anxiety affect driver fitness and mental preparedness;

b) identifying how anger management strategies reduce hostility and frustration;

c) analyzing how aggressive driving and road rage pose a threat to the health and safety of everyone on the road; and

d) quantifying the legal and financial consequences of reckless driving and road rage.

DE.12 The student will analyze the effects of fatigue and other conditions that impact driver performance. Key concepts include

a) identifying fatigue warning signs and countermeasures;

b) analyzing the relationship between circadian rhythms and sleep deprivation;

c) comparing the effect of short- and long-term physical and cognitive disorders on the driving tasks; and

d) evaluating how chronic health conditions may affect driver performance.

DE.13 The student will identify visual, auditory, manual, and cognitive distractions that divert attention from the driving task and analyze how divided visual and mental attention contribute to driver error. Key concepts/skills include

a) researching and evaluating the most dangerous distracted driving behaviors (e.g., texting, setting navigation systems, reading emails, adjusting radio and other controls, eating, drinking, smoking, personal grooming);

b) gathering and analyzing strategies to prevent distractions that take the driver’s eyes off the road and hands off the wheel;

c) identifying interior distractions (e.g., interactive technologies, passengers, pets, insects);

d) evaluating the impact of exterior distractions (e.g., looking at crash scenes, places of interest, billboards, emergency vehicles); and

e) demonstrating an understanding of distracted driving laws and analyzing the cost of distracted driving.

DE.14 The student will identify changes in the environment that affect visibility and traction and evaluate appropriate communication, speed, and lane position adjustment to reduce risks. Key concepts/skills include

a) mitigating limitations (e.g., nighttime visibility, overdriving headlights, curve-adaptive headlights) when driving at night;

b) evaluating multiple solutions for smoke- and weather-related conditions that reduce visibility;

c) demonstrating an understanding and responding appropriately to road construction and other adverse road conditions; and

d) examining the difference between electronic vehicle stability control and traction control systems.

DE.15 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the proper use of vehicle occupant-protection features and analyze how they can reduce injury severity and increase collision survival. Key concepts/skills include

a) investigating the efficacy of active restraint systems (e.g., seat belts, head restraints, child safety seats);

b) analyzing the effect of seating and steering wheel position on injury severity;

c) investigating legal obligation, ethical decision making, and the importance of advocating for proper use of vehicle occupant-protection devices; and

d) researching Virginia’s occupant protection laws and understanding the dangers of riding in the bed of a truck; and

e) analyzing automotive safety and highway transportation system career options based on personal interests, abilities, achievements, and goals.

DE.16 The student will analyze how technological innovations affect driving practices and reduce human error. Key concepts/skills include

a) demonstrating an understanding of advanced safety features (e.g., electronic stability control systems, blind spot detection, forward collision warning, lane departure warning);

b) comparing efficacy of passive occupant protection systems to include thorax, curtain, knee and other airbags and adaptive cervical head restraint systems;

c) demonstrating an understanding of advanced driver assist features (e.g., rearview video systems, automatic emergency braking, pedestrian automatic emergency braking, rear automatic emergency braking, lane centering assist);

d) researching partially automated safety features (e.g., lane keeping assist, adaptive cruise control, traffic jam assist, self-park);

e) analyzing the impact of fully autonomous safety features (e.g., autopilot self-driving vehicles that will integrate onto roadways by progressing through six levels of driver assistance

f) analyzing the transformative potential of new mobility options and employment opportunities that automated vehicles may provide for millions of people with disabilities.

DE.17 The student will identify and evaluate emergency-response strategies to avoid or reduce the severity of a collision. Key concepts/skills include

a) analyzing and demonstrating evasive maneuvers, using braking and steering combinations while maintaining front and rear traction control;

b) identifying open space as an emergency escape route;

c) recognizing how decisions are influenced and limited by the environment, the vehicle, driver error, and driver capabilities; and

d) demonstrating a gradual stepwise approach to safe off-road recovery.

DE.18 The student will identify and describe the performance characteristics of other road users and apply problem-solving skills to minimize risks when sharing the roadway. Key concepts/skills include investigating the unique characteristics and vulnerabilities of

a) pedestrians and animals;

b) bicycles, scooters, mopeds, and motorcycles;

c) tractor-trailers, trucks, and construction vehicles;

d) sport utility vehicles, recreation vehicles, and trailers;

e) emergency vehicles;

f) funeral processions;

g) passenger and school buses;

h) farm machinery and horse-drawn vehicles; and

i) highway workers.

DE.19 The student will compare vehicle braking systems and explain proper braking techniques for various conditions. Key concepts/skills include

a) demonstrating proper use of conventional hydraulic brake systems and understanding of new technologies such as regenerative braking;

b) demonstrating and evaluating appropriate use of controlled braking, trail braking, and threshold braking;

c) engaging antilock brake systems (ABS) and steering toward a target; and

d) analyzing how preventive maintenance and the annual state safety inspection reduces the possibility of brake failure and enhances safety.

DE.20 The student will analyze how regular preventive maintenance reduces the possibility of vehicle failures and recognize the warning signs that indicate the need for maintenance, repair, or replacement. Key concepts/skills include demonstrating an understanding of

a) vehicle warning devices;

b) lights and signals;

c) steering and suspension systems;

d) tires and braking systems;

e) fluids, cooling systems, and belts; and

f) fuel system and ignition electronics.

DE.21 The student will investigate vehicle ownership responsibilities including the processes and legal responsibilities for purchasing or leasing a vehicle as well as the operating and maintenance costs. Key concepts/skills include

a) demonstrating an understanding of the Financial Responsibility Law (Code of Virginia § 46.2-706);

b) differentiating between required and optional insurance coverage;

c) demonstrating an understanding of title and vehicle and registration requirements;

d) analyzing vehicle inspection and emissions requirements;

e) evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing or leasing an all-electric, hybrid electric, hydrogen fuel cell, ethanol, biodiesel, natural gas or traditional gas-powered vehicle; and

f) calculating depreciation and estimating a budget for routine maintenance and repair costs for new and older vehicles.

DE.22 The student will demonstrate competent map-reading and road-trip-planning skills by utilizing available resources. Key concepts/skills include

a) analyzing reliable trip-planning resources;

b) creating an itinerary, calculating total trip time, investigating alternative routes, traffic, rest stops, and other options;

c) calculating the cost of a trip to include fuel, tolls, daily and total mileage, fuel efficiency, food, hotels, and other variables; and

d) demonstrating an understanding of safe and legal practices for using navigation tools while driving.

DE. 23 The student will research and evaluate the environmental impact of transportation options and how to choose fuel-efficient vehicles. Key concepts/skills include

a) analyzing how all-electric, hybrid electric, hydrogen fuel cell, ethanol, biodiesel, and natural gas-powered vehicles conserve fuel and lower vehicle emissions;

b) comparing and evaluating the environmental impact of using public transportation, walking, cycling, ridesharing, and carpooling;

c) examining the health risks of air pollution and how some passenger vehicles produce significant amounts of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and other pollution;

d) investigating appropriate disposal of batteries, fluids, tires, and other environmentally hazardous materials; and

e) demonstrating an understanding of energy conservation, alternative or renewable sources of energy, conservation of natural resources, and green driving practices (e.g., smooth acceleration, idle reduction, properly inflated tires, eliminating excess weight, anticipating stops).

DE.24 The student will demonstrate an understanding of safe interaction with law enforcement and the steps to take if involved in or a witness to a crash. Key concepts/skills include

a) analyzing factors that may enhance safe interaction with law enforcement at the roadside (e.g., don’t panic, slow down, signal and locate a safe location, pull over, turn engine and radio off, keep hands on steering wheel, show respect, provide registration, driver’s license, and proof of insurance when asked);

b) investigating the consequences of moving violations and demerit points; and

c) examining the driver’s legal responsibilities at a crash scene (Code of Virginia § 46.2-896).

**2023 DRIVER EDUCATION CURRICULUM – SCOPE AND SEQUENCE**

**Module One:**

The Driver Education Program and Licensing; Teen Crashes and Risk; Virginia Learner’s Permit/License; Traffic Signals; Traffic Signs; Pavement Markings

DE.1, DE.10

**Module Two:**

HTS; Approaching the Vehicle; Adjusting the Vehicle for You; Locating and Operating Vehicle Controls; Starting and Securing the Vehicle

DE.1, DE.2, DE.7, DE.8, DE.15, DE.18

**Module Three:**

Vision and Perception; Assessing and Managing Risk; SEEiT

DE.5

**Module Four:**

Laws of Nature; Vehicle Balance; Reference Points and Lane Position; Basic Maneuvers; Moving the Vehicle

DE.3, DE.4, DE.19

**Module Five:**

Communicating with Other Roadway Users; Right of Way; Intersections; Navigating Turns; Driving

DE.6, DE.7, DE.8

**Module Six:**

Sharing the Road with Pedestrians, Bicycles, Scooters/Mopeds, Motorcycles, Passenger/School Buses, Construction Vehicles/Highway Workers, Animals, SUV’s/RV’s/Trailers, Emergency Vehicles, Funeral Processions, Farm Machinery, Horse-Drawn Vehicles, Trains, Light Rail Vehicles, Trolleys, and Large Vehicles (Trucks)

DE.6, DE.14, DE.18

**Module Seven:**

Adverse Conditions: Night Driving, Weather Related, Hot and Cold Weather, Dangerous Road Environments, Traction Loss and Skidding, Crash Avoidance, Evasive Maneuvers &

Off Road Recovery

DE.14, DE.17

**Module Eight:**

Vehicle Systems: Virginia’s Preventative Maintenance Laws, Preventative Maintenance, Vehicle Failures/Emergencies

DE.19, DE.20, DE.21

**Module Nine:**

Technological Advancements: Highway Safety Design, Vehicle Safety Design, Passive Occupant Protection Systems, Vehicle Stability and Traction Control, Vehicle Technology and Automated Vehicles, Vehicle to Vehicle and Vehicle to Infrastructure Communication Systems

DE.7, DE.15, DE.16

**Module Ten:**

Alcohol Facts: Nature of the Problem; Alcohol, Motor Vehicle Crashes and the Law; Effects of Other Drugs on the Driving Task; Resisting Negative Peer Pressure by Saying “No”

DE.9, DE.10

**Module Eleven:**

Driver Attention/Distracted Driving; Effects Driver Fatigue, Short/Long-Term Physical/Cognitive Disorders and Chronic Health Conditions Have on Driving Performance; Effects of Emotions; Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

DE.11, DE. 12, DE.13

**Module Twelve:**

Driver Responsibilities: Making Informed Choices - Insuring a Vehicle, Purchasing a Vehicle, Trip Planning, Conserving Natural Resources/Driving Green, Safe Interactions with Law Enforcement/Reporting Crashes, and What’s Next for You?

DE.1, DE.21, DE.22, DE.23, DE.24

**Module Thirteen:**

Guide to behind the wheel in car driver education. Module 13a, Students with special needs in driver education.

DE.1 – DE.24

## [Chapter 340. Regulations Governing Driver Education](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/)

## [8VAC20-340-5. Definitions.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section5/)

The following words or terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Board" means the Virginia Board of Education.

"Correspondence school" means a school, organization, or other entity, no matter how titled, that teaches students by mailing them lessons and exercises that upon completion are returned to the school for grading. Such lessons or exercises also may be transmitted and graded by electronic means.

"Course" means the presentation of an orderly sequence of material dealing with an individual subject area, such as driver education.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Education.

"Home instruction" means the teaching of a child or children by a teaching parent in the home as an alternative to meeting the requirements of compulsory attendance as defined in § [22.1-254](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254/) of the Code of Virginiaand as a means of complying with § [22.1-254.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254.1/) of the Code of Virginia.

"Parent" means any parent, guardian, legal guardian, or other person having control or charge of a child as specified in § [22.1-1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-1/) of the Code of Virginia.

"School" means a correspondence school for driver education programs.

**Statutory Authority**

§§ [22.1-16](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-16/) and [22.1-205](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-205/) of the Code of Virginia.

[8VAC20-340-10 Virginia Administrative Code **Driver Education Program**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/)

1. In accordance with provisions of the National Highway Safety Act of 1966 (23 USC § 401 et seq.) and § [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/) of the *Code of Virginia*, local school boards shall determine whether to offer a driver education program, and, if offered, whether it will be elective or required. School divisions offering programsthat comply with the standardized program of study and regulations established by the Board of Education and the provisions of § [22.1-205. *Code of Virginia* for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205) are entitled to participate in the distribution of state funds for driver education.
2. A state-approved driver education program consists of a minimum of 36 periods of classroom instruction and 14 periods of in-car instruction. The standardized driver education program established by the Board of Education requires that:
3. Classroom and in-car instruction shall follow the standardized program of study.
4. Local programs shall have the option that classroom driver education may be taught in lieu of 36 class periods of health education or as an elective course.
5. Superintendents and heads of private schools must seek program approval from the Department of Education prior to providing instruction and certify that the proposed program meets all state-approved program requirements.
6. The length of a class period must be a minimum of 50 minutes.
7. Students must drive a minimum of 50 miles during the in-car phase of instruction.
8. In-car instruction must be limited to no more than two periods of instruction in any 24-hour period, of which at least one must be actual driving.
9. No more than four periods of actual driving and four periods of observation on a multiple-car-range can count towards the 14-period in-car requirement.
10. Combination, on-street, simulation, and multiple-car-range programs must provide at least six periods of on-street driving and observation, four periods of multiple-car-range driving and observation, and eight periods of simulation.
11. Only fees approved by the Board of Education shall be collected for the laboratory phase of driver education pursuant to the Appropriation Act.

Public or private schools must submit classroom and in-car driver education teachers' driver license information for driver record monitoring as required by § [46.2-340. *Code of Virginia* Information Concerning School Bus Drivers and Driver Education Instructors](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-340/).

1. Local school boards must develop written policies concerning initial or continued employment of classroom and in-car teachers who receive excessive demerit points on their driving record.
2. Public and private schools must provide the Department of Education with the previous year's program data to calculate in-car basic aid reimbursement and to monitor program compliance.
3. Classroom and laboratory phases of the program must be offered concurrently at the same school or allow only a limited amount of time to elapse between classroom completion and laboratory instruction.
4. Students who have not successfully completed the classroom phase at one school cannot begin in-car instruction at another school.
5. Successful completion of a standardized end-of-course road skills assessment must be achieved prior to the school issuing a 180-day provisional license.

Statutory Authority §§ [22.1-205,](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205) and [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/) of the *Code of Virgini**a*.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section100/>

Classroom driver education may count for 36 class periods of tenth grade health education. Students shall not be removed from classes other than health and physical education for the in-car phase of driver education.

### State-Approved Driver Education Programs

The Board of Education/Department of Education [shall approve public and private school](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-205/) driver education programs. Commercial driver training schools are licensed and monitored by the Department of Motor Vehicles as prescribed by [Chapter 17. Driver Training Schools](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodefull/title46.2/chapter17/), and follow the same course content/SOL as public and private schools.  
  
Public and private schools seeking program approval from the Department of Education must submit a *Driver Education Program Approval Application* prior to beginning instruction or by September 15th. The SSWS applicationform will require division superintendents or heads of private schools requesting driver education program approval to certify that the proposed program will meet all state-approved program requirements. The Department of Education will use the teacher information submitted on the program approval application to satisfy the *Code of Virginia* requirement, which directs the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to monitor driver education teachers’ driving records.

[8VAC20-340-20 Virginia Administrative Code **Driver Education Vehicles**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section20/)

The school division or school shall:

1. Provide a vehicle in excellent mechanical condition, equipped with dual-control brakes, a roof top *si*gn, dual side mirrors, and safety restraints.
2. Ensure all driver education vehicles are equipped with restraint systems of the type approved by the Department of State Police in accordance with §§ [46.2-1093](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1093/) and [46.2-1095](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1095/) of the *Code of Virginia*.
3. Provide a vehicle with a current Virginia inspection sticker and license plate.
4. Insure the vehicle above the minimum amount required by state statute for liability and property damage.
5. Identify the instructional vehicle by displaying "DRIVER EDUCATION VEHICLE" and name of school (or school division) attached to the top of the vehicle. The school name does not have to be on the rooftop sign and may appear in another visible location on the vehicle.

Statutory Authority §§ [22.1-205,](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205) and [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/) of the *Code of Virginia*.

## [8VAC20-340-30. Teacher requirements.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section30/)

The standardized driver education program established by the Board of Education requires that teachers:

1. Hold a valid Virginia teaching license with an add-on endorsement or approved program endorsement in driver education; or, for in-car instruction, satisfy the paraprofessional training requirements;

2. Hold a valid Virginia driver's license; or, for teachers with valid out-of-state driver's licenses, provide the Department of Education with a copy of their driving record at the beginning of each semester, at the beginning of summer school, and when they receive a moving violation;

3. Have a broad background of driving experiences (two years minimum) in cities, rural roadways and highways;

4. Possess sound physical, mental and emotional qualities;

5. Have a satisfactory driving record; teachers who have accumulated six or more demerit points shall be removed from providing behind-the-wheel instruction for a period of 24 months, (no public or private school shall retain its driver education program approval by the Department of Education unless the teacher is removed;

6. Who have had their license suspended or revoked, or who have received a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrest or conviction, be immediately removed from any classroom or laboratory driver education teaching assignment;

7. Obtain parent/guardian permission to enroll a student in the laboratory phase of instruction;

8. Make every reasonable effort to protect students from injury;

9. Ensure the proper use of safety restraints by all persons occupying the driver education vehicle;

10. Ensure that the student driver has in his possession a valid Virginia learner's permit when operating a driver education vehicle;

11. Have at least two students, or no more than three students, in the car; however, when it is in the best interest of the student, and with prior written permission from the parents or legal guardians, one student may be scheduled for in-car instruction;

12. Shall not allow the driver education vehicle to be used by any student during on-street instruction without the teacher being in the vehicle providing direct instruction. If the vehicle is parked and students remain in the vehicle, the keys shall be removed by the teacher. In no event should the vehicle's engine remain running with students inside the vehicle without the teacher also being inside the vehicle; and

13. Shall not allow the driver education vehicle to be used during multiple-car range instruction without teacher supervision.

## [§ 46.2-340. Information concerning school bus drivers and driver education instructors.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-340/)

B. At the beginning of each school year, and whenever changes need to be made, each local school division and private school providing a driver education program approved by the **Department of Education shall furnish to the Department of Motor Vehicles the name and driver's license number of all persons providing instruction in driver education for that school division or private school.** Whenever a driver's license of a person providing such instruction is suspended or revoked, or such person is **convicted in any court of reckless driving or driving while intoxicated**, the Department shall notify the affected local school division or private school of the name and driver's license number of the driver involved.

If the driving record of such driver education instructor **accumulates more than six demerit points based on convictions occurring in any calendar year**, the Department shall notify the relevant local school division or private school of the name and driver's license number of the driver. Safe driving points shall not be used to reduce the six demerit points. No driver education program in a public-school division or a private school shall retain its approval by the Department of Education unless such a person who has accumulated such six demerit points is **removed from providing behind-the-wheel driver education instruction in the private school or public-school division for a period of twenty-four months**.

**Statutory Authority**

§§ [22.1-16](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-16/), [22.1-205](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-205/) and [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-334/) of the Code of Virginia.

## [8VAC20-340-40. Approval of correspondence courses for driver education.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section40/)

A. Required submissions.Schools seeking approval to offer the classroom portion of a driver education program to school-age children through a correspondence program or course in Virginia shall submit the following:

1. A signed and completed copy of the department's affidavit form.

2. A catalog or other documents containing the following information:

a. A statement of ownership or control of the institution;

b. Descriptions of the driver education courses offered by the institution;

c. A description of the method used to evaluate the students' work;

d. A schedule of tuition and fees, including the school's refund policies; and

e. Copies of all application forms and enrollment agreements used by the school.

3. Verification of approval or exemption from regular oversight from the appropriate state or local government agency in the school's state of domicile.

4. Information regarding the school's accreditation status.

5. The name and publisher of the textbook required.

6. An estimate of the minimum amount of time (in hours) required to complete the course.

7. Such additional information as the board or department may deem necessary.

B. All schools must evaluate the students' work at regular intervals specified by the department and maintain a permanent record of the work.

C. Each school meeting the criteria listed in this section is required to submit the required materials for review every year concurrent with the renewal affidavit.

D. Approval criteria. Driver education courses offered by schools submitting the materialsrequired by this section shall be approved when the following criteria have been met:

1. The school is, in fact, a correspondence school as defined in [8VAC20-340-5](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section5/);

2. The courses offered are consistent with state or federal laws or regulations;

3. The school evaluates the students' progress at regular intervals specified by the department and maintains a permanent record of that work; and

4. The content of each course is accurate and rigorous and meets the requirements of the Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia, 2010 edition, which includes the Driver Education Standards of Learning.

The school must provide evidence that at least two subject matter experts have reviewed and validated the accuracy of online content and textbook materials.

E. An application shall be complete when all required information has been submitted in the form required by the department. If the department, on behalf of the board, determines the application to be incomplete, the department shall notify the applicant of the insufficiencies in writing within 45 days of receipt of the incomplete application. The applicant must submit the required items to complete the application, to be received by the department within 45 days from the notification. If the application is not completed within the 45-day period, the case file for the request for approval as a provider will be closed. At any time prior to closure, the applicant may withdraw the request for approval. The applicant may submit a new application at any time.

F. Approval, denial, and revocation.

1. The department, on behalf of the board, shall notify applicants in writing when an application is approved.

2. Applications that do not meet the criteria required by subsections A, B, and D of this section shall be denied. The department shall notify applicants in writing of the denial, stating the reasons the application was denied and including the applicant's right to request the board to reconsider the application, pursuant to subsection G of this section.

3. An approved application may be revoked for good cause, which includes, but is not limited to, the conviction of the applicant, or any employee thereof, of (i) any felony or (ii) any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child.

G. Reconsideration by the Board of Education when an application is denied or when approval is revoked. A school whose application has been denied or whose approval has been revoked for good cause may request reconsideration by letter to the board. The letter of request shall include the reasons that the school believes the denial or revocation was inappropriate and shall document how it has corrected any insufficiency identified in the letter of denial or revocation. The board's decision on reconsideration shall be final on that application; however, a denial of reconsideration shall not prevent the school from submitting a new application at a later time.

H. Determination of continued compliance. Approval of the academic courses shall be renewed annually on or before August 1, provided that the school verifies that it continues to meet the requirements of this section. Forms for this purpose shall be provided by the department.

I. Disclaimer. The Board of Education's approval of a correspondence course is not an endorsement of the program as a substitute for public school programs nor is it an endorsement of the educational or operational philosophy of the school. Additionally, the approval of courses is not intended as an endorsement of the quality of the courses nor is it a conclusion that these courses meet the educational needs of the student or the assessment required by § [22.1-254.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254.1/) of the Code of Virginia.

Parents who choose to educate their children at home through a driver education correspondence course are directly responsible for the educational progress of their children and the adequacy of instruction. The board assumes no liability for damages or financial loss to parents using any of the approved driver education correspondence courses.

J. Restrictions. No school whose courses are approved as a driver education program shall advertise in any way that the courses have the endorsement, recommendation, accreditation, or recognition, or any other similar term, of the board, the department, or the Commonwealth of Virginia.

K. Transmitting the affidavit, documents, and other materials. The affidavit, related letters, forms, and other required application materials must be submitted to the Division of Instruction at the Virginia Department of Education by email to the Driver Education Specialist, whose contact information may be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/directories/index.shtml#vdoe.

[8VAC20-131-180 Virginia Administrative Code Off-site Instruction](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section180/)

1. Homebound instruction shall be made available to students who are confined at home or in a health care facility for periods that would prevent normal school attendance based upon certification of need by a licensed physician or licensed clinical psychologist. For students eligible for special education or related services, the Individualized Education Program committee must revise the IEP, as appropriate. Credit for the work shall be awarded whenitis done under the supervision of a licensed teacher, a person eligible to hold a Virginia license, or other appropriately licensed professional employed by the local school board, and there is evidence that the instructional time requirements or alternative means of awarding credit adopted by the local school board in accordance with the provisions of [8VAC20-131-110 Virginia Administrative Code Standard and Verified Units of Credit](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section110/) have been met.
2. A Certificate of Completion for Classroom Driver Education (DEC-1/DEC District 8) shall be awarded when the classroom instruction is delivered under the supervision of a licensed and endorsed teacher, and the student successfully completes the course.

§ [46.2-335. *Code of Virginia* Learner's Permits; Fees; Certification Required](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335/)

1. No driver's license shall be issued to any such person who is less than 18 years old unless, while holding a learner's permit, the student has driven a motor vehicle for at least 45 hours, at least 15 of which were after sunset, as certified by his parent, foster parent, or legal guardian unless the person is married or otherwise emancipated. Such certification shall be on a form provided by the Commissioner and shall contain the following statement:  
     
   *It is illegal for anyone to give false information in connection with obtaining a driver's license. This certification is considered part of the driver's license application, and anyone who certifies to a false statement may be prosecuted. I certify that the statements made, and the information submitted by me regarding this certification are true and correct.*Such form shall also include the driver's license or Department of Motor Vehicles-issued identification card number of the person making the certification.
2. No learner's permit shall authorize its holder to operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger who is less than 21 years old, except when participating in a driver education program approved by the Department of Education or a course offered by a driver training school licensed by the Department. This passenger limitation, however, shall not apply to the driver's family or household as defined in subsection B of § [46.2-334.01](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334.01/).
3. No learner's permit shall authorize its holder to operate a motor vehicle between midnight and four a.m.
4. A violation of subsection C or D of this section shall not constitute negligence, be considered in mitigation of damages of whatever nature, be admissible in evidence or be the subject of comment by counsel in any action for the recovery of damages arising out of the operation, ownership, or maintenance of a motor vehicle, nor shall anything in this subsection change any existing law, rule, or procedure pertaining to any such civil action.
5. The provisions of § [46.2-323](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-323/) and [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/) relating to evidence and certification of Virginia residence and, in the case of persons of school age, compliance with the compulsory school attendance law shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to applications for learner's permits and motorcycle learner's permits issued under this section.
6. For persons qualifying for a driver's license through driver education courses approved by the Department of Education or courses offered by driver training schools licensed by the Department, the application for the learner's permit shall be used as the application for the driver's license.
7. The Department shall charge a fee for each learner's permit and motorcycle learner's permit issued under this section. Fees for issuance of learner's permits shall be paid into the driver education fund of the state treasury; fees for issuance of motorcycle learner's permits shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Motorcycle Rider Safety Training Program Fund created pursuant to § [46.2-1191.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1191/) It shall be unlawful for any person, after having received a learner's permit, to drive a motor vehicle without being accompanied by a licensed driver as provided in the foregoing provisions of this section; however, a learner's permit other than a motorcycle learner's permit, accompanied by documentation verifying that the driver is at least 16 years and three months old and has successfully completed an approved driver's education course, signed by the minor's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis, shall constitute a temporary driver's license for the purpose of driving unaccompanied by a licensed driver 18 years of age or older, if all other requirements of this chapter have been met. Such temporary driver's license shall only be valid until the driver has received his permanent license pursuant to § [46.2-336](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-336/).
8. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the issuance of a learner's permit entitling a person to drive a commercial motor vehicle, except as by the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ [46.2-341.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-341.1/) et seq.).
9. Any violation of this section shall be punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor.

§ [46.2-335. *Code of Virginia* Learner's Permits; Fees; Certification Required](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335/) before driver's license; minimum holding period. No person under the age of eighteen years shall be eligible to receive a driver's license pursuant to § [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/) unless the Department has previously issued such person a learner's permit pursuant to [§ 46.2-335](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335/) and such person has satisfied the minimum holding period requirements set forth in subsection B, or unless such person is the holder of a valid driver's license from another state and qualifies for a temporary license under subsection E of § [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/) or subsection C of this section.

1. Effective July 1, 2002, any person under the age of eighteen years issued a learner's permit pursuant to § [[46.2-335.2](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335.2/)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335/) shall hold such permit for a minimum period of nine months or until he reaches the age of eighteen years, whichever occurs first.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection D of § [46.2-323,](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-323/) requiring thesuccessful completion of a driver education course approved by the State Department ofEducation,the Commissioner, on application therefore by a person who is at least eighteen years old but less than nineteen years old, shall issue to the applicant a temporary driver's license valid for six months if the student:
3. certifies by signing on a form prescribed by the Commissioner that he is a resident of the Commonwealth;
4. is the holder of a valid driver's license from another state; and
5. has not been found guilty or otherwise responsible for an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle.
6. No temporary license issued under this subsection shall be renewed, nor shall a second or subsequent temporary license under this subsection be issued to the same applicant.

§ [46.2-334. *Code of Virginia*: Conditions and Requirements for Licensure of Persons Under 18](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/)

1. Minors at least 16 years and three months old may be issued driver's licenses under the following conditions:
2. The minor shall submit a proper application and satisfactory evidence that the student;
3. is a resident of the Commonwealth;
4. has successfully completed a driver education course approved by either the State Department of Education or, in the case of a course offered by a driver training school licensed under Chapter 17 (§ [46.2-1700](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter17/section46.2-1700/) et seq.) of this title, by the Department of Motor Vehicles; and
5. is mentally, physically, and otherwise qualified to drive a motor vehicle safely.
6. The minor's application for a driver's license must be signed by a parent of the applicant, otherwise by the guardian having custody of the child. However, in the event a minor has no parent or guardian, then a driver's license shall not be issued to him unless his application is signed by the judge of the juvenile and domestic relations district court of the city or county in which he resides. If the minor making the application is married or otherwise emancipated, in lieu of any parent, guardian, or judge's signature, the minor may present proper evidence of the solemnization of the marriage or the order of emancipation.
7. The minor shall be required to state in the application whether or not the student has been convicted of an offense triable by, or tried in a juvenile and domestic relations district court or found by such court to be a child in need of supervision, as defined in § [16.1-228](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title16.1/chapter11/section16.1-228/). If it appears that the minor has been adjudged not innocent of the offense alleged or has been found to be a child in need of supervision, the Department shall not issue a license without the written approval of the judge of the juvenile and domestic relations district court making an adjudication as to the minor or the like approval of a similar court of the county or city in which the parent or guardian, respectively, of the minor resides.
8. The application for a permanent driver's license by a minor of the age of persons required to attend school pursuant to § [22.1-254](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-254/) shall be accompanied by evidence of compliance with the compulsory school attendance law set forth in Article 1 (§ [22.1-254](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-254/) et seq.) of Chapter 14 of Title 22.1. This evidence shall be provided in writing by the minor's parent. If the minor is unable to provide such evidence, the student shall not be granted a driver's license until the student reaches the age of 18 or presents proper evidence of the solemnization of marriage or an order of emancipation, or the parent, as defined in § [22.1-1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter1/section22.1-1/), or other person standing in loco parentis has provided written authorization for the minor to obtain a driver's license. A minor may, however, present a high school diploma or its equivalent or a certificate indicating completion of a prescribed course of study as defined by the local school board as evidence of compulsory school attendance compliance.
9. The minor applicant shall certify in writing, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, that the student is a resident of the Commonwealth. The applicant's parent or guardian shall also certify that the applicant is a resident by signing the certification. Any minor providing proper evidence of the solemnization of his marriage or a certified copy of a court order of emancipation shall not be required to provide the parent's certification of residence.
10. Any custodial parent or guardian of an unmarried or emancipated minor may, after the issuance of a permanent driver's license to such minor, file with the Department a written request that the license of the minor be canceled. When such request is filed, the Department shall cancel the license of the minor, and the license shall not thereafter be reissued by the Department until a period of six months has elapsed from the date of cancellation or the minor reaches his/her eighteenth birthday, whichever shall occur sooner. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, in the case of a minor whose parents have been awarded joint legal custody, a request that the license of the minor be cancelled must be signed by both legal custodians. In the event one parent is not reasonably available or the parents do not agree, one parent may petition the juvenile and domestic relations district court to make a determination that the license of the minor be cancelled.
11. The provisions of subsection A of this section requiring that an application for a driver's license be signed by the parent or guardian shall be waived by the Commissioner if the application is accompanied by proper evidence of the solemnization of the minor's marriage or a certified copy of a court order, issued under the provisions of Article 15 (§ [16.1-331](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title16.1/chapter11/section16.1-331/) et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1, declaring the applicant to be an emancipated minor.
12. A learner's permit accompanied by documentation verifying the minor's successful completion of an approved driver education course, signed by the minor's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis, shall constitute a temporary driver's license for purposes of driving unaccompanied by a licensed driver if all other requirements of this chapter have been met. The temporary license shall only be valid until the permanent license is presented as provided in § [46.2-336](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-336/).
13. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection, A requiring the successful completion of a driver education course approved by the State Department of Education, the Commissioner, on application therefor by a person at least 16 years and three months old but less than 18 years old, shall issue to the applicant a temporary driver's license valid for six months if the student:
14. certifies by signing, together with the parent or guardian, if applicable, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner that the minor is a resident of the Commonwealth;
15. is the holder of a valid driver's license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory; and
16. has not been found guilty of or otherwise responsible for an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle. No temporary license issued under this subsection shall be renewed, nor shall any second or subsequent temporary license under this subsection be issued to the same applicant. Any such minor providing proper evidence of the solemnization of marriage or a certified copy of a court order of emancipation shall not be required to obtain the signature of his parent or guardian for the temporary driver's license.  
      
    In order to obtain a permanent driver's license, applicants who transfer to Virginia from another U.S. state or any U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory must have documentation of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of in-car instruction from a government-approved program in the other U.S. state, U.S. territory, or Canadian province or Canadian territory. If a transfer applicant successfully completes a government-approved classroom and in-car driver education program from another state or any U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory, the applicant must present the certificate of completion, specifying the number of instructional hours, to the Department.
17. For persons qualifying for a driver's license through driver education courses approved by the Department of Education or courses offered by driver training schools licensed by the Department, the application for the learner's permit shall be used as the application for the driver's license pursuant to § [46.2-335](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335/).
18. Driver's licenses shall be issued by the Department to students successfully completing driver education courses approved by the Department of Education (i) when the Department receives from the school proper certification that the student (a) has successfully completed such course, including a road skills examination and (b) is regularly attending school and is in good academic standing or, if not in such standing or submitting evidence thereof, whose parent or guardian, having custody of such minor, provides written authorization for the minor to obtain a driver's license, which written authorization shall be obtained on forms provided by the Department and indicating the Commonwealth's interest in the good academic standing and regular school attendance of such minors; and (ii) upon payment of a fee of $2.40 per year, based on the period of the license's validity. For applicants attending public schools, good academic standing may be certified by the public-school principal or any of his designees. For applicants attending nonpublic schools, such certification shall be made by the private school principal or any of his designees; for students receiving home schooling, such certification shall be made by the home-schooling parent or tutor. Any minor providing proper evidence of the solemnization of his marriage or a certified copy of a court order of emancipation shall not be required to provide the certification of good academic standing or any written authorization from his parent or guardian to obtain a driver's license.
19. For those home-schooled students completing driver education courses approved by the Board of Education and instructed by his own parent or guardian, no driver's license shall be issued until the student has successfully completed the driver's license examination administered by the Department. Furthermore, the Commissioner shall not issue a driver's license for those home schooled students completing driver education courses approved by the Board of Education and instructed by his own parent or guardian if it is determined by the Commissioner that, at the time of such instruction, such parent or guardian had accumulated six or more driver demerit points in the most recently preceding 12 months, had been convicted within the most recent 11 preceding years of driving while intoxicated in violation of § [18.2-266](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter7/section18.2-266/) or a substantially similar law in another state, or had ever been convicted of voluntary or involuntary manslaughter in violation of § [18.2-35](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter4/section18.2-35/) or [18.2-36](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter4/section18.2-36/) or a substantially similar law in another state.
20. The Commissioner, on application therefor by a person from another U.S. state or any U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory who is at least 16 years and three months old but less than 18 years old, shall issue a Virginia driver's license to the applicant if the applicant;
21. certifies by signing, together with his parent or guardian, if applicable, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner that he is now a resident of the Commonwealth;
22. has completed a government-approved classroom and in-car driver education program from another U.S. state or any U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory, which shall not be required to meet the 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of in-car instruction requirement in subsection E;
23. is the holder of a valid driver's license from another U.S. state or any U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory;
24. has held the valid driver's license for the 12 months immediately prior to applying for a Virginia license;
25. has not been found guilty of or otherwise responsible for an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle; and
26. successfully completes behind-the-wheel and driver knowledge examinations administered by the Department.

The applicant must present the certificate of completion specifying the number of classroom and in-car driver education program instructional hours for the government-approved classroom and in-car driver education program from another U.S. state or any U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory to the Department.

§ [46.2-330. Expiration and Renewal of Licenses; Examinations Required](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-330/)

Every driver's license shall expire on the applicant's birthday at the end of the period of years for which a driver's license has been issued. At no time shall any driver's license be issued for more than eight (8) years. Thereafter, the driver's license shall be renewed on or before the birthday of the licensee and shall be valid for a period not to exceed eight years except as otherwise provided by law.

§ [46.2-334.01. Licenses Issued to Persons Less Than 18 Years Old Subject to Certain Restrictions](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334.01/)

1. Any learner's permit or driver's license issued to any person less than 18 years old shall be subject to the following:
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of § [46.2-498](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-498/), whenever the driving record of a person less than 19 years old shows that he has been convicted of committing, when he was less than 18 years old;
3. an offense for which demerit points have been assessed or are assessable under Article 19 (§ [46.2-489](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-489/) et seq.); or
4. a violation of any provision of Article 12 (§ [46.2-1091](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1091/) et seq.) or Article 13 (§ [46.2-1095](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1095/) et seq.) of Chapter 10, the Commissioner shall direct such person to attend a driver improvement clinic. No safe driving points shall be awarded for such clinic attendance, nor shall any safe driving points be awarded for voluntary or court-assigned clinic attendance. Such person's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis may attend such clinic and receive a reduction in demerit points and/or an award of safe driving points pursuant to § [46.2-498](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-498/).

The provisions of this subdivision shall not be construed to prohibit awarding of safe driving points to a person less than 18 years old who attends and successfully completes a driver improvement clinic without having been directed to do so by the Commissioner or required to do so by a court.

1. If any person less than 19 years old is convicted a second time of committing, when he was less than 18 years old;
2. an offense for which demerit points have been assessed or are assessable under Article 19 (§ [46.2-489](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-489/) et seq.); or
3. a violation of any provision of Article 12 (§ [46.2-1091](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1091/) et seq.) or Article 13 (§ [46.2-1095](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1095/) et seq.) of Chapter 10, the Commissioner shall suspend such person's driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle for 90 days. Such suspension shall be consecutive to, and not concurrent with, any other period of license suspension, revocation, or denial.

Any person who has had his driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle suspended in accordance with this subdivision may petition the juvenile and domestic relations district court of his residence for a restricted license to authorize such person to drive a motor vehicle in the Commonwealth to and from his home, his place of employment, or an institution of higher education where he is enrolled, provided there is no other means of transportation by which such person may travel between his home and his place of employment or the institution of higher education where he is enrolled. On such petition the court may, in its discretion, authorize the issuance of a restricted license for a period not to exceed the term of the suspension of the person's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in the Commonwealth. Such restricted license shall be valid solely for operation of a motor vehicle between such person's home and his place of employment or the institution of higher education where he is enrolled.

1. If any person is convicted a third time of committing, when he was less than 18 years old, (i) an offense for which demerit points have been assessed or are assessable under Article 19 (§ [46.2-489](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-489/) et seq.) or (ii) a violation of any provision of Article 12 (§ [46.2-1091](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-1091/) et seq.) or Article 13 (§ [46.2-1095](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-1095/) et seq.) of Chapter 10, the Commissioner shall revoke such person's driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle for one year or until such person reaches the age of 18 years, whichever is longer. Such revocation shall be consecutive to, and not concurrent with, any other period of license suspension, revocation, or denial.
2. In no event shall any person subject to the provisions of this section be subject to the suspension or revocation provisions of subdivision 2 or 3 for multiple convictions arising out of the same transaction or occurrence.
3. The initial license issued to any person younger than 18 years of age shall be deemed a **provisional driver's license**. **Until the holder is 18 years old, a provisional driver's license shall not authorize its holder to operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger who is less than 21 years old. After the first year the provisional license is issued, the holder may operate a motor vehicle with up to three passengers who are less than 21 years old**;
4. when the holder is driving to or from a school-sponsored activity;
5. when a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old is occupying the seat beside the driver; or
6. in cases of emergency. These passenger limitations, however, shall not apply to members of the driver's family or household. For the purposes of this subsection, "a member of the driver's family or household" means any of the following:
7. the driver's spouse, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, first cousins, and any individual who has a child in common with the driver, whether or not they reside in the same home with the driver;
8. the driver's brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the driver; and
9. any individual who cohabits with the driver, and any children of such individual residing in the same home with the driver.
10. The holder of a provisional driver's license shall not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth between the hours of midnight and 4:00 a.m. except when driving;
11. to or from a place of business where he is employed;
12. to or from an activity that is supervised by an adult and is sponsored by a school or by a civic, religious, or public organization;
13. accompanied by a parent, a person acting in loco parentis, or by a spouse who is 18 years old or older, provided that such person accompanying the driver is actually occupying a seat beside the driver and is lawfully permitted to operate a motor vehicle at the time; or
14. in cases of emergency, including response by volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical services personnel to emergency calls.

Except in a driver emergency or when the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped, the holder of a provisional driver's license shall not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth while using any cellular telephone or any other wireless telecommunications device, regardless of whether such device is or is not hand-held.

1. The provisional driver's license restrictions in subsections B, C, and C1 shall expire on the holder's eighteenth birthday. A violation of the provisional driver's license restrictions in subsection B, C, or C1 shall constitute a traffic infraction. For a second or subsequent violation of the provisional driver's license restrictions in subsection B, C, or C1, in addition to any other penalties that may be imposed pursuant to § [16.1-278.10](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title16.1/chapter11/section16.1-278.10/), the court may suspend the juvenile's privilege to drive for a period not to exceed six months.
2. A violation of subsection B, C, or C shall not constitute negligence, be considered in mitigation of damages of whatever nature, be admissible in evidence, or be the subject of comment by counsel in any action for the recovery of damages arising out of the operation, ownership, or maintenance of a motor vehicle, nor shall anything in this subsection change any existing law, rule, or procedure pertaining to any such civil action.
3. No citation for a violation of this section shall be issued unless the officer issuing such citation has cause to stop or arrest the driver of such motor vehicle for the violation of some other provision of this Code or local ordinance relating to the operation, ownership, or maintenance of a motor vehicle or any criminal statute.

§ [46.2-340. *Code of Virginia* for Information Concerning School Bus Drivers and Driver Education Instructors](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-340/)

1. At the beginning of each school year, and whenever changes need to be made, each local school division shall furnish to the Department of Education the name and driver's license number of all driver education instructors.
2. If the driving record of such driver education instructor accumulates six demerit points based on convictions occurring in any calendar year, the Department shall notify the relevant local school division or private school of the name and driver's license number of the driver. Safe driving points shall not be used to reduce the six demerit points. No driver education program in a public-school division or a private school shall retain its approval by the Department of Education unless such a person who has accumulated such six demerit points is removed from providing behind-the-wheel driver education instruction in the private school or public school division for a period of twenty-four months.

### [REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE LICENSURE OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL](http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=E:\\townhall\\docroot\\93\\1844\\3333\\Text_DOE_3333_v2.pdf)

[Teacher Licensure](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/licensure)

Regulations governing the licensure of school personnel, all prospective educators should demonstrate proficiency in grammar, usage, and mechanics in their integration in writing. The teacher competencies are based on a strong knowledge of instructional content and laboratory experience. The approved teacher education program provides prospective driver educators with opportunities to demonstrate both skill and knowledge to accommodate individual differences among learners. Teachers should adapt instruction to environmental constraints, plan for the teaching process, manage in-car scheduling, implement the juvenile licensing process, assess student achievement, utilize emerging technology, and evaluate the teaching-learning process. The driver education endorsement program is based on the conceptual framework reflected in the *Driver Education Standards of Learning for Virginia* *Public Schools*, and the *Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia.* Teacherssupplement the framework with traffic safety resources that facilitate student acquisition of knowledge, attitudes, critical thinking, and motor skill development to become safe, responsible members of the highway transportation system.

An applicant for public or nonpublic driver education teaching credentials shall meet the following requirements:

1. Hold a valid Virginia teaching license with a six-semester hour endorsement in driver education from an approved teacher preparation program.
2. Traffic safety education courses taken out-of-state will be evaluated by a Virginia Department of Education licensure analyst as to their comparable content.

## [8VAC20-23-320. Driver education (add-on endorsement).](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/section320/)

Endorsement requirements. The candidate shall have:

1. Earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and hold a license issued by the Virginia Board of Education with a teaching endorsement in a teaching area; and

2. Completed an approved teacher preparation program in driver education; or

3. Earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and hold a license issued by the Virginia Board of Education with a teaching endorsement in a teaching area; and completed 6 semester hours of coursework distributed in the following areas:

a. Driver Task Analysis, including instructional strategies as prescribed in the Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia (<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/driver_education/curriculum_admin_guide/index.shtml>); understanding the highway transportation system; applying Virginia's motor vehicle laws; personal, legal, and emotional factors; visual and sensory perception; risk perception and risk management; space management and other defensive driving techniques; environmental, financial, and other vehicle ownership responsibilities; vehicle technologies; and the scientific principles of the driving tasks: 3 semester hours; and

b. Principles and methodologies of classroom and in-car instruction, including applying classroom and in-car teaching techniques for delivering concurrent instruction; applying perception, vehicle balance, speed control, and other risk management principles to the development of precision driving skills; and understanding program administrative tasks, including juvenile licensing laws and issuance of a driver's license; a minimum of 14 hours of actual behind-the-wheel supervised teaching experience demonstrating vehicle control skills and performance capabilities that includes 2 hours of basic evasive maneuvers; and a minimum of 14 hours of mentorship with a licensed, endorsed driver education teacher: 3 semester hours.

4. A current, valid Virginia driver's license. School divisions are to ensure that teachers of driver education hold a valid driver's license.

Endorsement requirements. The candidate must have:

1. completed an approved teacher preparation program in driver education; or
2. completed 6 semester hours of coursework distributed in the following areas:
3. driver Task Analysis: 3 semester hours; and
4. principles and methodologies of classroom and in-car instruction, including a minimum of 14 hours of actual behind-the-wheel supervised teaching experience and 2 hours of basic evasive maneuvers; 3 semester hours.

## [8VAC20-340-30. Teacher requirements.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section30/)

The standardized driver education program established by the Board of Education requires that teachers:

1. Hold a valid Virginia teaching license with an add-on endorsement or approved program endorsement in driver education; or, for in-car instruction, satisfy the paraprofessional training requirements;

2. Hold a valid Virginia driver's license; or, for teachers with valid out-of-state driver's licenses, provide the Department of Education with a copy of their driving record at the beginning of each semester, at the beginning of summer school, and when they receive a moving violation;

3. Have a broad background of driving experiences (two years minimum) in cities, rural roadways and highways;

4. Possess sound physical, mental and emotional qualities;

5. Have a satisfactory driving record; teachers who have accumulated six or more demerit points shall be removed from providing behind-the-wheel instruction for a period of 24 months, (no public or private school shall retain its driver education program approval by the Department of Education unless the teacher is removed;

6. Who have had their license suspended or revoked, or who have received a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrest or conviction, be immediately removed from any classroom or laboratory driver education teaching assignment;

7. Obtain parent/guardian permission to enroll a student in the laboratory phase of instruction;

8. Make every reasonable effort to protect students from injury;

9. Ensure the proper use of safety restraints by all persons occupying the driver education vehicle;

10. Ensure that the student driver has in his possession a valid Virginia learner's permit when operating a driver education vehicle;

11. Have at least two students, or no more than three students, in the car; however, when it is in the best interest of the student, and with prior written permission from the parents or legal guardians, one student may be scheduled for in-car instruction;

12. Shall not allow the driver education vehicle to be used by any student during on-street instruction without the teacher being in the vehicle providing direct instruction. If the vehicle is parked and students remain in the vehicle, the keys shall be removed by the teacher. In no event should the vehicle's engine remain running with students inside the vehicle without the teacher also being inside the vehicle; and

13. Shall not allow the driver education vehicle to be used during multiple-car range instruction without teacher supervision.

**Statutory Authority**

§§ [22.1-16](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-16/), [22.1-205](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-205/) and [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-334/) of the Code of Virginia.

[https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/licensure Virginia Administrative Code Teacher Requirements](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section30/)

### PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Personnel selected to be trained as paraprofessionals in public or nonpublic driver education programs shall meet the following qualifications;

1. must be at least 21 years of age;
2. must have a high school diploma or equivalent;
3. must possess sound physical and mental health;
4. must hold a current/valid Virginia driver’s license;
5. must have a three-year driving record upon which the Department of Motor Vehicles has taken no corrective action immediately prior to approval as a teaching paraprofessional; and
6. must have at least four years of driving experience.

It is also suggested that when selecting paraprofessionals, administrators consider the candidate’s background in the area of traffic safety (or related areas such as school bus driver, retired civilian or military police officer) as part of the criteria. The candidate must have:

1. completed an approved teacher preparation program in driver education; or
2. completed 6 semester hours of coursework distributed in the following areas:
3. Driver Task Analysis: 3 semester hours; and
4. Principles And Methodologies of Classroom and In-Car Instruction, including a minimum of 14 hours of actual behind-the-wheel supervised teaching experience and two hours of basic evasive maneuvers: 3 semester hours.

Upon completion of the training, the school administrator must submit to the Department of Education the school division’s certificate of completion that includes the paraprofessional instructor’s full name, driver’s license number, and date of completion. The paraprofessional shall receive a minimum of eight hours of driver education in-service training every two years.

### PARAPROFESSIONALS TEACHING THE LABORATORY PHASE

1. Paraprofessionals, when conducting laboratory instruction, shall be supervised by a licensed, endorsed driver education teacher or administrator.
2. A driver education teacher or administrator with an endorsement in driver education may supervise no more than three paraprofessionals.
3. Approved paraprofessionals may conduct in-car instruction, multiple-car range instruction, and simulation instruction for public, nonpublic, and commercial schools with state-approved programs.
4. The validity and performance records of the paraprofessional driver education instructor shall be reviewed annually by the school division. If the instructor has failed to meet the requirements or has in any way disqualified him/herself as a paraprofessional driver educator, the school division should immediately notify the Department of Education.

### LOCAL SUPERVISION

State-approved driver education programs are based on carefully planned policies and sound educational principles. Program success depends on administrative leadership, qualified and dedicated teachers, appropriate equipment, facilities, and competent supervision. Quality programs are a product of continuous, careful, and cooperative planning. Through effective scheduling all students can be assured of timely participation in the classroom and in-car phases of the driver education program.  
  
As the instructional leader of the school, the principal is responsible for effective program management that maximizes student achievement, a safe and secure environment in which to teach and learn, and efficient use of resources. The most successful driver education programs are actively supported by administrators who take a direct interest in their development. Administrative responsibilities include:

1. selecting personnel;
2. purchasing equipment;
3. securing facilities and adequate financing;
4. maintaining accurate records and reports;
5. gaining community support and promoting parent involvement;
6. protecting instructional time from unnecessary interruptions and disruptions;
7. providing staff development designed to improve instruction and student learning; and
8. establishing partnerships with local, state, and nonprofit agencies with traffic safety missions or responsibilities.

Administrators and supervisors should give special attention to the development of sound classroom and in-car program policies to provide a basis for consistent decision-making. A qualified staff person should be designated to supervise and coordinate the driver education program. This person should ensure quality instruction by:

1. assisting with creating and monitoring compliance with general policies and practices;
2. supervising and improving the instructional process;
3. selecting and evaluating materials and equipment;
4. assisting with scheduling and student enrollment policies;
5. preparing an annual budget and maintaining program cost accounting;
6. evaluating the effectiveness of the instructional program; and
7. promoting public relations and community involvement.

### SCHOOL AND TEACHER IN-CAR REQUIREMENTS

Driving a motor vehicle exposes the roadway user to inherent dangers which school officials and driver education teachers should take every possible precaution to minimize. The school division or school:

1. Shall provide a vehicle, in excellent mechanical condition, equipped with dual-control brakes, roof top sign, dual side mirrors, and safety restraints. The vehicle must have a current Virginia inspection sticker and license plate.
2. Shall provide sufficient insurance to protect the school, the teacher, and the students.
3. Should consider installing security cameras in the vehicle when local school boards approve cameras as a safety feature in buses, classrooms, and other instructional areas.
4. Should consider installing telematics systems when local school boards approve GPS fleet tracking systems on school buses and other vehicles to monitor fuel usage, idle time, speed, and provide accurate, timely data to enhance safety and make informed management decisions.

The driver education teacher:

1. Shall obtain parent/guardian permission for student enrollment in the laboratory phase of instruction.
2. Shall make every reasonable effort to protect students from injury.
3. Shall have a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher (at least UL rated 5-B:C) in the car.
4. Shall ensure the proper use of safety restraints by all persons occupying the driver education vehicle.
5. Shall ensure that the student driver has in his/her possession a valid Virginia learner’s permit when operating a driver education vehicle.
6. Shall not allow the driver education vehicle to be used during multiple-car range instruction without teacher supervision.
7. Shall teach *in* the driver education vehicle on the multiple-car range when the teacher is responsible for only *one vehicle*.
8. Shall not allow the driver education vehicle to be used by any student in a parking lot or during on-street instruction without the teacher being in the vehicle providing direct instruction.
9. Shall remove the keys from the ignition if the vehicle is parked and students remain in the vehicle – under no circumstances, should the vehicle’s engine remain running with students inside the vehicle without the teacher also being inside the vehicle.
10. Shall not conduct in-car instruction with less than two, or more than three, students in the car. Exception: when the IEP or 504 plan specify 1:1 instruction, or when it is in the best interest of the student, one student may be scheduled for in-car instruction with written permission from the parents or legal guardians.

### VEHICLE PROCUREMENT

Sources for obtaining vehicles for laboratory instruction for public and nonpublic high schools include, but are not limited to:

1. Rent or leased - payment may be made to dealers for administrative fees, and/or dealer preparation and reconditioning.
2. Conditional purchase agreements with dealers - when vehicles are returned, repayment is made to the school division for the amount originally paid, less reconditioning fees (this procedure eliminates the interest rates the dealer must pay).
3. Purchase or surplus vehicles obtained through the Department of General Services, Division of Purchases and Supply or from rental agencies.
4. Acquired through government auctions.
5. Loaned by local motor vehicle dealers and/or others.
6. Donated by local businesses, community members, law enforcement, as surplus county fleet vehicles, etc.

The local school board shall:

1. Authorize the use of driver education vehicles for instructional purposes only;
2. Designate a school official as an agent for the board to obtain a written agreement to purchase, rent, borrow, or accept donated vehicles for the driver education program; and
3. Execute agreement forms when contracting for driver education vehicles.

To secure public-use license plates from the Department of Motor Vehicles, ownership must be transferred to and vested in the local school board. The transfer of the title must be recorded by the Department of Motor Vehicles, and a title certificate must be issued to the school board. Dealer plates may be used as an alternative to public use license plates. Dealer plates from bordering states are also acceptable (§ [46.2–1557](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter15/section46.2-1557/)).  
  
The driver education vehicle may have courtesy lettering identifying the dealer, but such lettering shall not be more than one and a half inches high. School personnel who assume responsibility for driver education vehicles loaned by dealers should take adequate steps to ensure that the loaned vehicles are used only for instructional purposes.

### DRIVER EDUCATION VEHICLES

[8VAC20-340-20 Virginia Administrative Code Driver Education Vehicles](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter340/section20/)

The school division or school shall:

1. Provide a vehicle in excellent mechanical condition, equipped with dual-control brakes, a roof top sign, dual side mirrors, and safety restraints;

2. Ensure all driver education vehicles are equipped with restraint systems of the type approved by the Department of State Police in accordance with §§ [46.2-1093](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-1093/) and [46.2-1095](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-1095/) of the Code of Virginia;

3. Provide a vehicle with a current Virginia inspection sticker and license plate;

4. Ensure the vehicle above the minimum amount required by state statute for liability and property damage; and

5. Identify the instructional vehicle by displaying "DRIVER EDUCATION VEHICLE" and name of school (or school division) attached to the top of the vehicle. The school’s name does not have to be on the rooftop sign and may appear in another visible location on the vehicle.

**Statutory Authority** §§ [22.1-16](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-16/), [22.1-205](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-205/) and [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-334/) of the Code of Virginia.

DMV-licensed Class B driver training schools should refer to [24VAC 20-121-220 Administrative Code Equipment Requirements for Class B Licensed Schools](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title24/agency20/chapter121/section220/) for driver education vehicle requirements.

### DUAL CONTROLS AND RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

Dual controls must be installed in all driver education vehicles. Information relative to the cost and suppliers of dual brake controls and other safety equipment may be obtained from the Department of Education or the Department of Motor Vehicles. All driver education vehicles shall be equipped with restraint systems of the type approved by the Department of State Police in accordance with §§ [46.2-1093](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1093/) and [46.2-1095](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1095/) of the *Code of Virginia*.

### OPTIONAL IN-CAR INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT

1. Teacher rear view mirror
2. Eye-check mirror
3. Instructor clipboard/in-car traffic board
4. Mobile device for record keeping
5. Observer’s activity sheets/tablet/mobile device
6. Ruler or tape measure (to measure distance from steering wheel, curb, etc.)
7. Hand-held voice recorder/player
8. Timing device (e.g., stopwatch, mobile device)
9. Brake and accelerator pedal extensions to ensure driver is at least 10 inches from the airbag
10. Appropriate seat cushions (driver’s chin should be above the top of the steering wheel)
11. Cones
12. Cameras and GPS telematics to enhance instruction and safety

### VEHICLE INSURANCE

## [§ 46.2-472. Coverage of owner's policy.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-472/)

Driver education vehicles must be insured beyond the minimum amount required by state statute for liability and property damage. It is recommended that liability and property damage amounts are at least $250,000/$500,000/$100,000 ($250,000 for a single individual’s injuries/$500,000 for multiple individual’s injuries/$100,000 for damage to property). Consult the [Auto Insurance Consumer Guide](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/getattachment/93774df3-1375-4978-8e58-1887da4944d3/autoguide.pdf) for additional consumer protection and awareness information.

### PROGRAM COST EFFECTIVENESS

School administrators should select the instructional delivery process that provides the highest quality instruction at the lowest cost. During the regular school year, most school divisions offer classroom driver education instruction in lieu of tenth grade health education (at no additional cost), and in-car instruction before and/or after school in vehicles assigned to the school. To streamline cost and improve access, schools should also consider decentralizing instruction by placing car(s) at each high school, and having teachers manage the licensing process.

### CHARGING A LABORATORY FEE

*A driver education program is self-supporting when the fee charged, and Basic Aid covers all operating costs.* Many school divisions charge a fee that covers the teacher’s salary ($150 - $225) and use Basic Aid funding to cover all other operating expenses. Local school boards that elect to charge a fee may want to consider developing written policies to address parent requests for fee reduction based on need. To determine student eligibility for reduced in-car instructional fees, some school divisions use documented financial need based on student participation in the federally funded School Nutrition Accountability Program. School divisions may also want to consider using a sliding scale to differentiate fee reductions given to students who are eligible for reduced lunch and those who qualify for free lunch. Only fees approved by the Board of Education may be collected for the laboratory phase of driver education. Charging a fee is optional for local school boards and has no impact on the fee charged during the summer. Summer school fees require no prior approval from the Department of Education and will not result in a pro rata reduction in basic aid.

Direct Aid to Public Education includes funding to support in-car driver education instruction. The fee for the learner’s permit and a portion of the driver license fee ($1.50 per license), from either new or renewed driver’s licenses is earmarked to support a portion of the Basic Aid cost of in-car driver education programs for those divisions that offer it and is used to offset a like amount of general fund revenue. [Chapter 769](https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/bill/2023/1/HB1400/Chapter/), An Act to amend and reenact Enactment 1 and Items 267, 269, and 341 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, which appropriates the public revenues for two years ending, respectively, on June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024, and to amend Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, which appropriates the public revenues for two years ending, respectively, on June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024, by adding items numbered 138.10, 486.10, C-36.50, and C-79.50, relating to general appropriation act state in part:

The apportionment to localities of all driver education revenues received during the school year shall be made as an undesignated component of the state share of the basic operation cost in accordance with the provisions of this Item. Only school divisions complying with the standardized program established by the Board of Education shall be entitled to participate in the distribution of state funds appropriated for driver education. The Department of Education will deduct a designated amount per pupil from a school division's Basic Aid payment when the school division is not in compliance with [§ 22.1-205. *Code of Virginia* for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205). Such amount will be computed by dividing the current appropriation for the Driver Education Fund by actual March 31 ADM**.**

1. Local school boards may charge a per pupil fee for behind-the-wheel driver education provided the ***fee charged plus the per pupil basic aid reimbursement for driver education shall not exceed the actual average per pupil cost*.** Such fees shall not be cause for a pro rata reduction in Basic Aid payments to school divisions.

The "average per pupil cost" for the laboratory (in-car driving and observing; and, if utilized, simulation and multiple-car-range instruction), phase of the program is based on financial data from the previous school year’s regular term program.  
  
At the end of the regular school year, public and private schools must provide the Department of Education with the previous year’s *Driver Education Status Questionnaire* program data. The Status Questionnaire is used to monitor program compliance and collect course completion data. To charge a fee for in-car instruction, public schools must submit the *Fee Approval Form* at the beginning of the school year. To calculate the student fee, the *Fee Approval Form* includes all program expenditures and the amount of basic aid reimbursement that the school division received.The fee charged, plus the per pupil basic aid reimbursement for driver education, shall not exceed the actual average per pupil cost. Program compliance, and program and fee approval information are collected through [Single Sign-on for Web Systems (SSWS)](https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/ssws/login_page.do).

### ESTIMATING COST AND BUDGET

Established fiscal accounting procedure requires cost projections to plan an annual budget for high school driver education programs. The classroom phase of instruction should be budgeted in the same manner as used for other subjects. Careful analysis of potential laboratory costs should be made to determine total projected program costs. Based on the projected number of eligible students, following are items to consider in estimating program costs:

1. Personnel:
2. Number of teachers/paraprofessionals needed.
3. Instructor salaries (full-time with fringe benefits or hourly rate).
4. Vehicles:
5. Number of vehicles needed (rent, lease, floor plan, or owned).
6. Insurance (fleet plan, self-insured or assigned risk plan).
7. Maintenance (gasoline, routine maintenance, repairs).
8. Equipment and Supplies:
9. Simulators (purchase, maintenance, teaching materials, and software).
10. On-street equipment (roof-top signs, dual outside mirrors, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, dual control brakes for each vehicle, and other optional equipment).
11. Multiple-car-range equipment (traffic cones, communication systems, etc.).
12. Miscellaneous expenditures (flares, first aid supplies, cameras).

Careful consideration should be given to determine which classroom and laboratory plan will provide the most effective and efficient instructional program.

### WHEN TO OFFER PROGRAM

Providing relevant learning experiences that are both directly applicable to the personal aspirations or interests of students, and connected in some way to real-world issues, problems, and contexts are critical to learning. If possible, students should receive classroom instruction during the school semester in which they have reached, or are approaching, their fifteenth birthday.  
  
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading *health risk* for teens, and consequently most school divisions offer classroom driver education in lieu of tenth-grade health education. Classroom driver education may *not* be offered in lieu of ninth-grade health education. Administrators should consider offering classroom driver education during first and second semesters. Offering the course both semesters complement developmentally appropriate practices and effective use of facilities and equipment. Older students would be scheduled first semester and younger students second semester. In addition, whenever possible, laboratory instruction should be offered *concurrently*, or as soon as possible thereafter, at the same school to students with a learner’s permit. A student who completes classroom instruction during first semester sophomore year and does not take in-car driver training until his/her junior or senior year may not benefit from applying concepts learned in the classroom to actual driving experiences within the recommended time frame. Learning interest typically peaks when students approach or have reached the minimum legal driving age.  
  
Schools must obtain written permission from a parent or guardian before a student (younger than 18 years old), enrolls in the laboratory phase of the program. In-car instruction may be offered before, during, or after the regular school day, on Saturdays, and during school breaks and holidays. Scheduling in-car instruction outside the regular school day is cost effective and less likely to interfere with other classes. School divisions should have written policies to address in-car instruction on days when schools are closed due to adverse road conditions. Students with disabilities, who require special licensing and/or pre-driving assessments, should be identified and evaluated during the classroom phase of the program. This will provide adequate time to determine if adapted driving equipment and/or DMV medical release forms are needed.

**AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM AND STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

Public schools employ a highly skilled workforce to prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education and the workplace, and to become engaged and enlightened citizens. School divisions offering in-car instruction ensure equality of opportunity for each student to learn driving skills from a highly qualified teacher in a safe and healthy learning environment that prepares all students to be capable, responsible, life ready, self-reliant citizens. Prior to offering a driver education program, public and private schools must receive program approval from the Department of Education. Commercial driver training schools must be licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Students must have a valid Virginia learner’s permit to participate in any phase of laboratory instruction.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver Education standardizes classroom and in-car driver education instruction in Virginia. Students may enroll in a public, nonpublic, or a commercial driver-training program. A state-approved driver education program consists of a minimum of 36 periods of classroom instruction, and 14 periods of in-car instruction (7 periods observing and 7 periods driving) and includes a standardized road skills examination. All students are issued a Driver Education Certificate of Completion (DEC-1/DEC-District 8), after successfully completing a state-approved public or private school classroom driver education course. After successfully completing a state-approved public or private school classroom and in-car driver education program, students are issued a 180-Day Temporary Provisional Driver’s License (TDL-180).  
  
The classroom and laboratory phases of the program may be offered concurrently at the same school. Students who have not successfully completed the classroom phase at one school, may not begin in-car instruction at another school. Prior to starting in-car instruction at another school, the public or private school student must provide the in-car teacher/instructor with aDEC-1/DEC-District 8 certificate to document successful completion of classroom. To prevent forgeries, the DEC-1/DEC-District 8 certificate is the only acceptable public or private school classroom completion document. Commercial driving schools and state-approved online driver education courses have their respective state-approved certificates of completion.

### ASSESSMENT

Assessments inform teachers and others what driving-related concepts and skills students have learned, how well they have learned these concepts and skills, and whether adjustments need to be made to curricula and/or instruction. There are two types of assessments that should occur. The first is an ongoing or formative assessment that continually measures student performance to guide instruction and enhance student learning. Formative assessment is part of the instructional process. These assessments inform both teachers and students about student understanding at a point when timelyadjustments can be made.Formative assessments may be accomplished in several ways. Examples include quizzes, evaluation of homework, project-based learning assignments, worksheets, reports, verbal feedback in class, role-playing activities or demonstrations. Examples of ongoing in-car assessments include daily evaluation of basic skill, maneuvers, and in-car student observer activities.The second type of assessment is a summative or end of phase (classroom and behind-the-wheel) assessment. A locally designed criterion-referenced final exam is administered in the classroom to measure how well students have mastered the expectations of the SOL. A standardized [state-approved final in-car assessment](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1996/637949897713670000) is also administered to determine if the student has mastered essential driving skills. Students who pass the summative classroom and in-car assessments, receive parental permission, have held a learner’s permit for the prescribed period of time, have reached the minimum age, have no court sanctions, and have successfully master the course objectives, are eligible for a 180-day temporary provisional license. Assessments results should be shared with parents/guardians.

### LENGTH OF DAILY INSTRUCTION

Studies show that shorter and more frequent lessons are more effective than longer lessons given over a shorter period of time. In addition, because student safety is of foremost consideration in program scheduling, the maximum in-car time shall NOT exceed two periods of instruction a day. A class period is defined as a MINIMUM of 50 minutes. During the regular school year, instruction should not exceed a total of two periods of classroom and two periods of laboratory instruction within any 24-hour period. Most teachers are paid an hourly rate, which allows for 10 minutes to complete paperwork each day.

Summer school classroom instruction is the exception to the maximum two periods of classroom instruction in a 24-hour period rule. Driver education students may receive the same amount of classroom instructional time as allowed for other summer school courses. The rationale for this exception is summer school students do not have to maintain a regular school year academic load.

### LABORATORY INSTRUCTION

Laboratory instruction may include simulation, multiple-car-range (MCR), and on-street instruction. The average length of time a student can safely operate the driver education vehicle in complex, demanding driving situations may vary. Many teachers have found that student learning is maximized by offering two 25-minute instructional “blocks” to satisfy the minimum 50-minute requirement. Switching the two student drivers more frequently is especially effective during initial lessons when students may be nervous, anxious, or afraid. In addition, dividing the lesson into two segments allows the teacher to intensify the number of steps and complexity of the performance skills. It also maximizes learning for the observing student who immediately applies the skills and processes they observed.  
  
Instruction should begin in the school parking lot, or at the school division’s designated location, such as a multiple-car-range facility. Instruction should end at the same location unless local school board policy allows students to be dropped off at home or at another location. Teachers should coordinate with parents via text or another mode of communication when students are dropped off at home. Schools should consider installing cameras and/or GPS systems telematics in vehicles to improve safety and oversight. These systems record both the driver and the road, and provide real time monitoring of speed, location, and let administrators know when vehicles deviate from their set route.

### MULTIPLE-CAR-RANGE INSTRUCTION

A multiple-car range (MCR) enables the driver education teacher, from a position outside of the vehicle using electronic or oral communication to teach and supervise several students simultaneously each of whom is operating a motor vehicle at an off-street facility specifically designed for this type of instruction.Range instruction provides basic *parking lot* skills, such as steering, stopping and accelerating, backing, parking, turning and managing intersecting traffic in a safe environment. The range is also the preferred environment to provide students with simulated emergency and basic evasive driving experiences, such as blocked lane, ABS braking, hydroplaning, and off-road recovery. Learning experiences on the MCR should be offered in a sequence preparatory to and integrated with on-street driving and driving simulation.Whenever possible,however,students who have mastered “parking lot” skills on the range should “graduate” to actual on street learning experiences.The size, design, and number of vehicles used on the range will determine the types of experiences that may be provided. For example, the experiences provided on a 300’ x 500’ area utilizing 6-8 vehicles are greater than those provide on a standard range, which is 150’ X 300” with 4-5 vehicles. One period of instruction (driving or observing) on a multiple-car-range may be substituted for one period of on-street instruction (driving or observing). This one-to-one substitution ratio may be used for up to a maximum of four periods of on-street driving and four periods of observing.

### ON-STREET INSTRUCTION

Actual driving on roadways is a more valuable learning experience than simulated or multiple-car-range driving experiences. **At a minimum, students must receive at least three periods of on-street driving and three periods of on-street observing.** A minimum of two, and a maximum of three, students may be assigned in a vehicle during on-street instruction. Students may receive a maximum of two periods of classroom instruction, or two periods of laboratory instruction in a 24-hour period. Up to four periods of on-street driving and four periods of on-street observing may be replaced with any combination of simulation and multiple-car-range instruction. A period of instruction must be at least 50 minutes.

### SIMULATION INSTRUCTION

If simulation instruction is used to replace a portion of the on-street instruction, a substitution ratio of four periods of simulation instruction to one period of on-street instruction (4:1) may be used. The simulator is an effective method of introducing students in a classroom to various driving experiences in a controlled environment. The nature and complexity of the simulated learning experiences range from basic decision-making to emergency driving decisions.If school divisions elect to use driving simulators, a driver education teacher trained in the proper role and use of simulators should provide the instruction. A simulation instructor can teach at a 16:1 student ratio. Simulators can be used as a tool to diagnose student abilities, and practice perceptual search, identification, and processing skills.

### MINIMUM NUMBER OF REQUIRED PERIODS OF INSTRUCTION

| **Type of Instruction** | **Classroom** | **On-Street** | **\*Multiple-Car Range (1-1 ratio)** | **Simulation (4-1 ratio)** | **Observation Time** | **Total Periods** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| On-Street | 36 | 7 |  |  | 7 | 50 |
| Multiple-Car Range (MCR) | 36 | 3 | 4 |  | 4 | 50 |
| Simulation | 36 | 3 |  | 16 | 16 | 71 |
| MCR, Simulation and On-Street | 36 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 54 |

### TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

There are several computer software programs designed to enhance classroom traffic safety instruction. These computer programs have narrative, decision-making, and/or situational-type deliveries that present an array of scenes for the student driver to problem solve and negotiate. General topics include basic control maneuvers, advanced maneuvers, making choices about alcohol/drug use and driving, distractions, and other traffic safety-related topics.

The decision to use computer programs to enhance instruction may be based on several factors. Some of those factors may include if the program:

1. helps achieve the goals and objectives of the driver education *Standards of Learning*;
2. is user-friendly and accessible to all students;
3. includes consequences for making incorrect knowledge, skill, or attitudinal decisions or actions; and/or provides remedial attempts towards eventual student success.

### SIZE OF CLASSES AND FACILITIES

The number of students enrolled in driver education classes should be the same as other academic courses. Adequate classroom space with easy access to instructional resources promote quality instruction. In addition, provisions should be in place for securely storing the 180-day temporary provisional driver’s licenses and other licensing forms and documents.

### SCHEDULING DRIVER EDUCATION AS A SEMESTER ELECTIVE COURSE

School divisions may schedule driver education as a semester elective course to:

1. enroll students by age, rather than by grade level;
2. allow students to take the program when their schedule is most flexible;
3. accommodate the coordination of classroom and laboratory instruction;
4. minimize problems associated with teacher assignments;
5. permit students to earn .5 unit of elective credit; and
6. provide students with more health education and driver education instruction.

When scheduled as a semester course, instruction will exceed the minimum 36-periods of classroom and 14-periods of in-car instruction.

### [Records Retention and Disposition Schedule](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/agencies/records/sched_local/GS-21.pdf)

Accurate juvenile licensing record keeping is essential for quality assurance, public safety, and accountability. These records shall be reviewed periodically by administrators responsible for the driver education program. **Juvenile licensing forms (DEC-1, DEC-8, TDL-180, etc.,) and record forms** should be kept for all phases of the driver education program, including program enhancement (e.g., driving simulation, range), [**for seven years after student graduates**](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/agencies/records/sched_local/GS-21.pdf)**, completes Board of Education program, transfers, or withdraws, and should include time frames and performance assessments.**

Driver education student records should include:

1. Parent/guardian permission to enroll in the course;
2. General information sheet that includes the student’s name, learner’s permit number, address, phone, emergency contact person, and if applicable, visa information;
3. School copy of the 180-day provisional license;
4. Attendance records;
5. Hours completed (including program enhancements);
6. Remedial instruction records;
7. In-car progress report, mileage, and final state-approved road skills test; and
8. Parent Permission Form (PPF) authorizing issuance of the 180-day provisional license.

### **DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOL COMPUTER-BASED CLASSROOM** **COURSE**

An online driver training school is a driver training school offering [computer-based driver education courses](file:///C:\Users\dbu63557\Desktop\DE\Chapter%2017%20Driver%20Training%20Schools) to individuals seeking to obtain a license to operate motor vehicles. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is responsible for [the licensing and oversight of online driver training schools](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/training/dtsonline/dtsonline-license). Under special circumstances, the Virginia Departments of Motor Vehicles and Education have allowed school principals to grant permission to public and nonpublic school students to take the Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety (VADETS) virtual course that is monitored by licensed teachers with an endorsement in driver education. Getting special permission to take the VADETS course to satisfy the classroom driver’s licensing requirement, however, should not be interpreted as satisfying the tenth-grade health education requirement. VADETS is a safety net for students that meet the eligibility criteria and have received approval from a school administrator willing to proctor the final exam.

Please refer to the [**online provider application process**](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/driver_education/online-provider-app/index.shtml) for driver education correspondence courses and driver training school computer-based classroom driver education programs.

§ [**46.2-1702. *Code of Virginia* Certification of Driver Education Courses by Commissioner**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter17/section46.2-1702/)

1. Except for schools in the Commonwealth's public school system and providers of correspondence courses approved by the Board of Education pursuant to subsection F of § [22.1-205. Code of Virginia for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205), only those driver training schools that are licensed as computer-based driver education providers shall be authorized to administer computer-based driver education courses. The content and quality of such computer-based driver education courses shall be comparable to that of courses offered in the Commonwealth's public schools. The Commissioner may establish minimum standards for testing students who have enrolled in computer-based driver education courses. Such standards may include;
2. requirements for the test site;
3. verification that the person taking the test is the person enrolled in the course;
4. verification of the identity of the student using photo identification approved by the Commissioner; and
5. maintenance of a log containing the name and title of the licensed instructor monitoring the test, the test date, the name of the student taking the test, and the student's time-in and time-out of the test site.

Computer-based driver education providers shall not issue a certificate of completion to a student prior to receiving proof of completion of the additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component pursuant to § [22.1-205. Code of Virginia for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205).

1. Parents should review the virtual course learning objectives, grading policy, privacy, and legal policies. Contact information for the online course provider, online instructor, and technical support should include hours of availability and expected response time. Learner time in the course should be tracked by student activity and work successfully completed, and not just the amount of time the student is “logged in.” The curriculum must be designed to provide at least 36 periods of instruction, not to exceed the two hours per day requirement, and be of sufficient rigor, depth, and breadth to meet the learning outcomes and expectations of the SOL. Student information should be kept confidential, protected, and securely stored in all electronic or non-electronic formats. The online provider should meet all privacy and confidentiality requirements as set out by state laws, by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and by any other federal laws.The online provider’s website should describe how the course meets state and/or federal accessibility standards (e.g., conforms to US Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act in connection to information technology) to ensure equal access to all users. The online provider’s website should also provide alternative options for users with special needs to access web content.

### OBTAINING A VIRGINIA LEARNER’S PERMIT AND DRIVER’S LICENSE

[**APPLYING FOR A LEARNER’S PERMIT**](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/learners/apply)

If the applicant is at least 15 years and six months old and under the age of 18, he/she may obtain a learner’s permit at a DMV customer service center after fulfilling the following requirements.

1. Complete the Virginia Driver’s License Application Form (DL1P). A parent/guardian over the age of 18 must sign the DL1P form granting DMV permission to issue a student younger than 18 years of age a learner’s permit and a driver’s license. Minors providing evidence of solemnization of marriage or a certified copy of a court order of emancipation are not required to provide certification of compliance with compulsory school attendance laws, good academic standing, or have any other written parent or guardian authorization to obtain a learner’s permit or a driver’s license. In the event the student is not married, or under legal custody of a parent/guardian, the DL1P form must be signed by a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judge. Host parents are NOT eligible to sign for foreign exchange students.
2. Falsifying information on a driver's license, a learner's permit, or a photo identification card application is a criminal offense. DMV will not issue, for a period of one year, a driver's license or learner's permit when a person has made a willful material false statement on any application for a driver's license.
3. Furnish proof of a social security number. DMV will assign each customer a number that will be displayed on the learner’s permit and driver's license.
4. Provide an original identification document certifying name and date of birth. A list of acceptable documents is available at [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov). Applicants under 18 years of age are required to have only one document from the primary document list to certify proof of identity.
5. Furnish proof of residency. A list of acceptable documents is available at [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov). Parents or legal guardians of applicants under age 18 may certify Virginia residency.
6. Furnish proof of legal presence in the USA by using one of the acceptable documents listed at [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov).
7. Pass a two-part sign and knowledge exam. The computer-based exam may be taken only once per business day. The computer-based exam includes an audio version and is also available in several languages. The student must answer all *10 traffic sign questions* correctly on the first part of the exam, and at least 80 percent of the general knowledge questions correctly on the second part of the exam. Students who fail either section of the DMV exam will not be eligible for re-testing for at least 15 days and are required to retake both tests. Any applicant who fails the DMV sign or driver knowledge tests three times shall not be permitted to take the examination a fourth time until successfully completing a driver education classroom course subsequent to the third failure. Students who have previously completed a classroom driver education course are eligible to complete an 8-hour Driver’s Manual Course, § [46.2.325](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-325/).
8. Pass the vision test. If the student needs to wear glasses or contact lenses to pass the test, the driver’s license will show this restriction. Virginia’s vision standards are 20/40 or better vision in one or both eyes, and 100 degrees, or better, horizontal vision in one or both eyes. Individuals are restricted to driving during daylight hours if they have 20/70 or better vision in one or both eyes, and 70 degrees or better horizontal vision. If only one eye is affected, 40 degrees or better temporal and 30 degrees or better horizontal vision are required. This type of license permits driving one-half hour after sunrise to one-half hour before sunset. Students who wear bioptic telescopic lenses should contact DMV to find out about vision requirements.
9. Organ donor information is collected by DMV on the learner’s permit/driver’s license application form. Students should be encouraged to share their donor preference with their families.
10. Males under 26 years of age must register with the Selective Service. If the student is under the age of 18, the parent or legal guardian must sign the application authorizing the Selective Service to register the student when he turns 18 years of age. For more information go to [Selective Service System](https://www.sss.gov/).
11. Students with a mental or physical condition that may impair their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, even temporarily, must provide DMV with a medical statement from a doctor. Some of these conditions include loss of consciousness, vision changes, impairment of judgment or loss of motor function. DMV will evaluate the medical information to determine if a driver's license may be issued or restricted. Medical forms are available at [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov).
12. If a student has a **visa**, **the learner’s permit will expire when the student’s visa expires.** If there is no expiration date on the visa, the learner's permit and/or the driver’s license will be valid for one year.
13. The driver’s license is valid for 8 years and expires on the student’s birthday. For security reasons, the learner’s permit is mailed to the applicant and should be received within 15-30 days. A temporary learner’s permit (receipt) will be issued at the DMV customer service center. Visit [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/pdf/dmv201.pdf) for a list of DMV fees.
14. **A learner’s permit (and temporary learner’s permit receipt**) allows the student to operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by a driver 21 years of age or older who is lawfully permitted to operate a motor vehicle, or by a parent, legal guardian, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, or stepsister 18 years of age or older who is lawfully permitted to operate a motor vehicle. The accompanying person shall be alert, able to assist the driver and occupying the seat next to the driver.
15. Learner's permit holders may not operate a motor vehicle between midnight and four a.m., or with more than one passenger less than 21 years old, except when participating in a driver education program approved by the Department of Education or the Department of Motor Vehicles. This passenger limitation, however, shall not apply to the driver's family or household siblings as defined in subsection B of § [46.2-334.01](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334.01/).
16. If any learner's permit or driver's license issued to any person less than 20-years of age shows that he has been convicted of;
17. an offense for which demerit points have been assessed or are assessable under Article 19 (§ [46.2-489](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-489/) et seq.) of this chapter; or
18. a safety belt or child restraint violation, such person shall attend a driver improvement clinic. A computer-based driver improvement course will not satisfy this requirement. No safe driving points will be awarded for attending the clinic. Such person's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis may attend the clinic and receive a reduction in demerit points and/or an award of safe driving points pursuant to § [46.2-498](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-498/).

### ID CARD

For students 15 years old or older, the ID is valid for five years and costs $10. The student may hold a learner’s permit/driver’s license or an ID card, but not both.

### APPLYING FOR A VIRGINIA DRIVER’S LICENSE

Students must be at least sixteen years and **three months** old to apply for a provisional driver’s license.

### APPLICANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST

1. Hold a valid learner’s permit (from Virginia, another state, U.S. territory, or Canadian province) for a period of at least **nine** months and successfully complete a state-approved classroom and behind-the-wheel driver education program. U.S. territories that have been granted a test waiver include American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
2. Successfully complete a state-approved driver education program. **Classroom** **completion certificates (DEC-1 or DEC-District 8)** must be issued to students who successfully complete the classroom phase at one school and enroll in the in-car phase at a different school. To prevent forgeries, **the certificate of completion is the only acceptable** **classroom completion document**. Provisions should be made for students to receive DEC cards during the summer.
3. Students who transfer to Virginia from another state or U.S. territory must have documentation of at least **30 hours of classroom instruction** from a **state-approved program** to be eligible for in-car instruction. Contact DMV or DOE to determine if the out-of-state classroom driver education course meets Virginia’s requirements. Documentation of 30-hours, along with DMV’s copy of the student’s 180-day license, must be mailed to the DMV image retrieval center in Richmond.

### ISSUING THE 180-DAY LICENSE

1. No driver's license shall be issued to a student under age 18 unless the student’s parent/guardian certifies that the student has driven a motor vehicle for at least 45 hours, (at least 15 of which were after sunset), as certified by his parent or legal guardian.
2. On the parent permission form (PPF), the parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis must provide written authorization for a minor (under age 18), to receive a 180-day provisional driver’s license. [The PPF-22 also documents parental certification](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1992/638150056817700000), as required by the *Code of Virginia*, pertaining to the Commonwealth’s interest in good academic standing and regular school attendance, and that the minor is mentally, physically and otherwise able to operate a motor vehicle. The parent permission form must be kept with the student’s school records and not mailed to DMV. In addition, as prescribed by the *Code*, parents must sign the following statement and provide their DMV-issued driver’s license or ID number.

*It is illegal for anyone to give false information in connection with obtaining a driver’s license. This certification is considered part of the driver’s license application, and anyone who certifies to a false statement may be prosecuted. I certify that the statements made and the information submitted by me regarding this certification are true and correct.*

1. After the student has satisfied all requirements, the public or private school providing the behind-the-wheelinstruction can issue a 180-day temporary provisional driver’s license (TDL-180).
2. The parent/guardian must also sign the completed TDL-180 and furnish a Virginia driver’s license number or DMV-issued identification number. Students and parents should make sure that all information on the TDL-180 is accurate before signing it. If the 180-day temporary license is missing any information or signatures; if the student is not at least 16 years and three months old; or if the student has not held a learner’s permit for nine months; the 180-day temporary license is NOT VALID, and the student CANNOT drive. Please note, if stopped, this student will be cited for driving without a license. In addition, if the mistake is discovered by DMV, DMV will send an advisory letter to the student/parent explaining why the student is not properly licensed.
3. Parents should contact their insurance company to report a newly licensed driver in the family.

Schools should mail DMV’s copy of the 180-day temporary license (TDL-180) to the Image Retrieval Center in Richmond:

**Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

**Driver’s License and ID Card Work Center, Room 419**

**2300 West Broad Street**

**Richmond, Virginia 23169-0001**

**F. If you are under the age of 18** when your driver's license is issued, you may be required to attend a court licensing ceremony with your parent or guardian to receive your license. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court in the jurisdiction where you live will mail you a notice if you are required to attend. If the court does not require the ceremony, your driver's license will be mailed directly to you. For more information, refer to our [list](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/pdf/court_licensing_reqs.pdf) of courts/jurisdictions that require a juvenile licensing ceremony.

G. If during the 180-day period the student does not receive notification from the courtto attend a licensing ceremony, send the student to any DMV Customer Service Center to receiveanother 180-day temporary driver’s license, or contact the Department of Education for assistance. DMV will charge a fee for a duplicatecopy of the 180-day temporary license. Teachers have the authority to issue ONE 180-day license to a student. The driver’s license isvalid for eight years and expires on the driver’s date of birth.

H. The 180-day temporary license (TDL-180) is valid when accompanied by a valid Virginialearner’s permit. All restrictions, (e.g., vision, hand controls) will appear on the learner’spermit and permanent license - it is NOT noted on the 180-day temporarylicense.

### PROVISIONAL DRIVER LICENSE RESTRICTIONS FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

1. A provisional driver’s license shall not authorize its holder to operate a motor vehicle with more than one non-family passenger less than 21 years old until the holder has held a provisional license for one year or until the licensee turns 18. After the first year the provisional license is issued, the holder may operate a motor vehicle with up to three non-family passengers who are less than 21 years old;
2. when the holder is driving to or from a school-sponsored activity; or
3. when a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old is occupying the seat beside the driver; or
4. in cases of emergency until the licensee turns 18.
5. Drivers under age 18 shall not operate a vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m. except when driving;
6. to or from work;
7. when accompanied by a parent or person in loco parentis, or by a spouse who is 18 years old or older;
8. to or from an activity that is supervised by an adult and is sponsored by a school or by a civic, religious, or public organization; or
9. in cases of emergency including responding to fire or some other emergency as a volunteer firefighter or rescue worker.

Effective January 1, 2021, Virginia law prohibits all drivers from holding cell phones or any other wireless communication devices while driving except in a driver emergency or the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped.

### TRANSFER STUDENTS

1. Students transferring from another state will be required to surrender their out-of-state learner’s permits and take and pass the Virginia’s knowledge and sign tests. They also must meet the identity, legal presence, residency, social security, and driver education requirements. The time that the student has held the out-of-state learner’s permit will be counted as practice driving toward Virginia’s nine-month minimum holding period for a learner’s permit.
2. Students who transfer to Virginia from another state or U.S. territory must have documentation of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction from a state-approved program to be eligible for in-car instruction. **If the transfer student successfully has completed a state-approved 30-hour classroom and 6-hour in-car driver education program from another state, the student must present the certificate of completion, specifying the number of instructional hours, to DMV for review and approval.**
3. Students under age 18 who have a current out-of-state license, and do not have proof that they completed a driver education course, will be issued a six-month temporary license by DMV. During that six-month temporary licensing period, the student must complete a Virginia-approved driver education course. The other provision of this law allows minors aged 16 and 3 months through 17 years to obtain a Virginia driver’s license without meeting Virginia’s minimum driver education requirement if they have held a valid license from another U.S. state, territory, Canadian province or Canadian territory *for at least one year and have proof of some government approved driver education but not the required 30 periods of classroom instruction and 14 periods of in-car instruction*.The applicant must provide proof that he/she has held the valid driver’s license for the 12 months immediately prior to applying for a Virginia license and has not been found guilty of or otherwise responsible for an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle. The applicant must successfully pass a behind-the-wheel and driver knowledge examinations administered by DMV.
4. If the student holds a valid driver's license issued by a U.S. state, territory, jurisdiction, Canadian province, or Germany, it must be surrendered when the student applies for a Virginia driver's license. The student may be required to take the two-part knowledge test or the road skills test but will be required to pass a vision screening. Remind students to photocopy the out-of-state driver’s license for future insurance or licensing needs.
5. If the student’s license has been suspended or revoked by another state, a Virginia license may not be issued until the student’s driving record in the other state is cleared, or until the student has served five years of the suspension or revocation, whichever occurs first. The holder of a valid driver’s license from another state qualifies for a temporary license under Subdivision 3 of § [46.2-334](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-334/), and will not be subject to the nine-month learner’s permit holding period.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. In many countries driver education costs students thousands of dollars, and foreign exchange students often want to receive this instruction while attending school in Virginia. Successful completion of a driver education program, however, does not mean that foreign exchange students can drive with a Virginia driver’s license in their country of origin. The licensing age, motor vehicle laws, and the country’s testing requirements are usually very different. Successful completion of a Virginia driver education program may satisfy some of their educational requirements.
2. Foreign exchange or boarding school students who are returning home, and have not met the nine**-**month holding period or have not received notification from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, have the following options:
3. Include a letter to the DMV Image Retrieval Center with the student’s 180-day temporary license explaining the student’s situation, and request that the student be scheduled for an earlier licensing ceremony.
4. Ask the parent/legal guardian to submit a written explanation about the student’s situation to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and request that the judge waive attendance at the juvenile licensing ceremony; or
5. Provide a detailed description of the driver education course on school letterhead to be used to document course content and hours of instruction.

### [CHILDREN OF ACTIVE-DUTY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-306/" \l ":~:text=Notwithstanding%20%C2%A7%2046.2-100%2C%20a%20person%20on%20active%20duty,motor%20vehicle%20on%20the%20highways%20in%20the%20Commonwealth.)

If a student is a dependent child of an active-duty member of the Armed Forces stationed in Virginia, and is 16 years and three months or older, he/she may drive with a valid driver's license issued by his/her home state or country.

### NON-RESIDENTS

[Nonresidents temporarily living in Virginia](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/license/applying/eligibility#non-residents) may drive with their home state driver’s license and license plates for no more than six months.

### [HEARING IMPAIRED](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/disability/hearing-assist) STUDENTS

If a student is hearing impaired, arrangements can be made for an interpreter to assist during the DMV transaction. The Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) provides interpreters.  
  
Special license plates and photo IDs for the hearing impaired are available from any DMV office. Drivers who are hearing impaired may request a “hearing impaired” indicator is placed on the driver’s license. The plates and photo IDs inform law enforcement officers and others that the driver is hearing impaired.

### COURT SANCTIONS

If a court finds that a child at least 13 years of age has failed to comply with school attendance and meeting requirements as provided in § [22.1-258](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-258/), the court shall order the denial of the child's driving privileges for a period of not less than 30 days. If such failure to comply involves a child under the age of 16 years and three months, the child's ability to apply for a driver's license shall be delayed for a period of not less than 30 days following the date he reaches the age of 16 and three months. § [16.1-278.9](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title16.1/chapter11/section16.1-278.9/)

### DRIVING OUT OF STATE

Young drivers holding valid Virginia learner’s permits and driver’s licenses must check to make sure that they can legally operate a vehicle in another state. Age requirements are not the same in every state.

### [MOTORCYCLE PERMITS](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/motorcycle)

Go to [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/#motorcycle.asp) for information concerning motorcycle-licensing requirements.

### LICENSING FEES

Visit [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/pdf/dmv201.pdf) for a list of DMV fees. A copy of an individual’s driver or vehicle record is available online, at a DMV branch office, or by writing to DMV. The records can be certified for an additional fee. A five-year history of the driving record is sent to an insurance company; a seven-year history is sent for employment purposes; and, if a reason is not specified, DMV will provide an 11-year driving history.