# Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia 2017

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## INTRODUCTION

As required by § [22.1-205. *Code of Virginia* for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205), the Virginia Board of Education has established a standardized program of driver education for public, private, and commercial driver training schools. The vision of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction, in cooperation with their partners, 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 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 *Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia*. The Department of Education’s model driver education curriculum assists teachers in providing a 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 problems 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 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 actually 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 a car to practice on 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. They can *cover all operating expenses* by charging a reasonable fee and using Basic Aid to offset vehicle-operating costs.  
  
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* by fundamentally improving driver behavior, not just traffic safety knowledge and skills; whereby students adopt safe driving behaviors and attitudes; are fully accountable for the choices they make; and gain meaningful, guided experiences to become safer, more competent drivers, minimizing their risks and contributing to a reduction of 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 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.  
  
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 in order 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 become better 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](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/driver_education/parent_teen_driving_guide.pdf).  
  
The [Driver Education Standards of Learning](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/driver_education/index.shtml) (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* provides the framework for Virginia’s model curriculum. An outline of the scope and sequence of content for the 12 classroom modules and the in-car module is included in the *Administrative Guide*. The driver education curriculum modules are designed to give teachers a comprehensive set of tools that incorporate activities that exercise a variety of learning skills, including: critical and creative thinking; social skill (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. The driver education curriculum alone, however, does not guarantee 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 students. Upon request, approved teachers and commercial driving school instructors are granted access to the curriculum. Reproduction of material for instructional purposes in Virginia classrooms is permitted. No commercial for profit use of any part of the curriculum is permitted.  
  
Successful course completion (classroom and in-car instruction), is a prerequisite for students (under age 18) to obtain a driver’s license in Virginia. Upon successful completion of classroom and in-car driver education program requirements, and compliance with all the juvenile licensing provisions (minimum age, learner’s permit holding period, 45-hours of guided practice, parent permissions, etc.,) the in-car driver education teacher will issue the student a *180-day temporary provisional driver’s license*. A copy of the student’s 180-day temporary license will also be sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The DMV will process the temporary 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.  
  
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](http://www.va-doeapp.com/StaffByDivisions.aspx?w=true). 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).

## **DRIVER EDUCATION STANDARDS OF LEARNING** Board of Education Commonwealth of Virginia January 2015

### 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. *Code of Virginia* for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205), 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 informed by teachers’ experience, content experts, 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.

### INTRODUCTION

Driver literacy is an important life skill. Cars do not crash; people crash them. The classroom and in-car driver education standards are intended to help students develop conceptual understanding of safe driving practices and 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, maintenance of alertness, driver distractions, and protection of 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 is not the same as the ability to drive safely. A well-educated driver helps to increase traffic safety.  
  
Successful completion of a state-approved 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 is placed on extensive supervised driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or other mentor.  
  
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.

**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 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:

1. demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws governing the operation of a motor vehicle;
2. identify and analyze responsible habits and behaviors and understand how physical and psychological conditions affect driver performance;
3. apply knowledge, processes, and skills to become safe, competent users of the highway transportation system;
4. use visual search skills and a systematic decision-making process to make risk-reducing decisions by adjusting speed and/or position;
5. demonstrate balanced vehicle movement through precise and timely steering, braking, and accelerating under a variety of conditions;
6. display responsible driving behaviors when alone and with peers;
7. interact safely with other roadway users by predicting vehicle performance, avoiding conflicts, and minimizing and managing risks;
8. identify how advancements in intelligent handling and stability technology systems affect driving practices;
9. engage in meaningful, extensive supervised practice to progress from simple to more complex driving skills in low, moderate, and higher risk driving environments; and
10. master precision movements for maintaining optimal vehicle balance and control in expected as well as unexpected circumstances.

### STANDARDS OF LEARNING

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of Virginia traffic laws, licensing procedures, and other responsibilities associated with the driving privilege. Key concepts include:
2. graduated driver licensing requirements and types of licenses;
3. traffic safety information in the Virginia Driver’s Manual;
4. the motor vehicle section of the *Code of Virginia*;
5. the organ- and tissue-donation designation process;
6. interaction with law enforcement; and
7. responsibilities at a crash scene.
8. The student will demonstrate an understanding of basic vehicle operating procedures. Key concepts/skills include:
9. pre-driving procedures;
10. starting procedures for automatic and manual transmissions;
11. vehicle information, warning, and control devices;
12. efficient accelerating, braking, and steering techniques; and
13. vehicle securing procedures.
14. The student will use vehicle reference points to establish vehicle position and execute basic driving maneuvers. Key concepts/skills include:
15. parking;
16. turning;
17. establishing lane position; and
18. backing.
19. The student will recognize the effects of momentum, gravity, and inertia on vehicle control and balance, and the relationship between kinetic energy and force of impact. Key concepts/skills include:
20. sitting and hand position;
21. steering, braking, and accelerating;
22. compensating for shifts in vehicle load (from side to side, front to rear, and rear to front) that affect vehicle performance;
23. managing front tire traction loss (understeer) and rear tire traction loss (oversteer); and
24. analyzing the cause and severity of types of collisions — head-on, near frontal, broadside, rear-end, rollover, sideswipe.
25. The student will demonstrate the ability to manage visibility, time, and space to avoid collisions and reduce driving risks. Key concepts/skills include:
26. demonstrating targeting and tracking skills;
27. synthesizing information visually from the driving environment using the SEEiT (Search, Evaluate and Execute in Time) space-management systematic decision-making process;
28. applying following-distance time and space concepts;
29. selecting appropriate speed, maintaining adequate gap, and judging distance;
30. estimating time and space needs for passing; and
31. identifying and responding to open and closed spaces and changes to line-of-sight or path-of-travel.
32. The student will demonstrate appropriate adjustments when approaching controlled and uncontrolled intersections, curves, work zones, railroad crossings, and hills with line-of-sight or path-of-travel limitations. Key concepts/skills include:
33. right-of-way rules;
34. roadway signs, signals, and markings;
35. slope/grade of terrain; and
36. vehicle position and speed control.
37. The student will identify the characteristics of an expressway and apply risk-reducing expressway driving strategies. Key concepts/skills include:
38. managing interchanges;
39. entering, merging, and exiting from traffic flow;
40. selecting vehicle position and changing lanes; and
41. managing toll facilities.
42. The student will demonstrate the ability to communicate presence and intentions to other highway transportation users. Key concepts/skills include:
43. vehicle position and driver action;
44. vehicle communication devices; and
45. hand signals for slow/stop, right turn and left turn.
46. The student will analyze and describe the physiological, psychological, and cognitive effects of alcohol and other drugs and their impact on a driver’s awareness of risks and involvement in collisions. Key concepts include:
47. prescription and nonprescription medications;
48. illegal drugs;
49. effects of alcohol and other drugs on vision and space management;
50. synergistic effects of drugs; and
51. ways alcohol and other drugs are eliminated from the body.
52. The student will identify and analyze the legal, health, and economic consequences associated with alcohol and other drug use and driving. Key concepts/skills include:
53. positive and negative peer pressure;
54. refusal and peer-intervention skills;
55. Implied Consent, Zero Tolerance, and Use and Lose laws;
56. Administrative License Revocation, loss of license, ignition interlock, and other licensing restrictions; and
57. court costs, insurance requirements, Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program referral, and other costs.
58. The student will recognize the consequences of aggressive driving and the influence of emotions on driving behaviors. Key concepts include:
59. stress and anxiety;
60. anger management; and
61. the relationship between aggressive driving and road rage.
62. The student will analyze the effects of fatigue and other physical conditions on driver performance. Key concepts include:
63. circadian rhythms;
64. sleep deprivation;
65. short- and long-term physical and mental disabilities; and
66. chronic health conditions.
67. The student will identify distractions that contribute to driver error. Key concepts include:
68. driver behaviors (e.g., eating, smoking, personal grooming);
69. cell phones and other portable technology devices;
70. passengers;
71. vehicle accessories; and
72. insects and pets.
73. The student will identify changes in the environment that affect visibility and traction and demonstrate an understanding of appropriate driver reaction to these risks. Key concepts/skills include:
74. driving at night;
75. smoke- and weather-related conditions;
76. road construction and other adverse road conditions; and
77. vehicle stability and traction control systems.
78. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the proper use of vehicle occupant-protection features, analyze how they can reduce injury severity, and increase collision survival. Key concepts/skills include:
79. active restraint systems;
80. passive restraint systems;
81. child restraint systems; and
82. other vehicle safety design features.
83. The student will analyze how technological advancements in intelligent handling and stability control systems affect driving practices. Key concepts/skills include:
84. electronic stability control systems;
85. occupant protection systems to include thorax, curtain, knee and other airbags;
86. seatbelt technologies and intelligent head restraints systems;
87. adaptive cruise control and automatic emergency braking systems;
88. lane-keeping assist and blind spot warning systems;
89. reversing and other cameras; and
90. adaptive front lighting.
91. The student will identify and evaluate emergency-response strategies to avoid or reduce the severity of a collision in high-risk driving situations. Key concepts/skills include:
92. understanding and managing front and rear traction control;
93. identifying open space;
94. recognizing how decisions are influenced and limited by the environment, the vehicle, driver error, and driver capabilities;
95. demonstrating evasive maneuvers, using braking and steering combinations; and
96. managing off-road recovery.
97. 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 with:
98. pedestrians and animals;
99. bicycles, scooters, mopeds, and motorcycles;
100. tractor-trailers, trucks, and construction vehicles;
101. sport utility vehicles, recreation vehicles, and trailers;
102. emergency vehicles;
103. funeral processions;
104. passenger and school buses; and
105. farm machinery and horse-drawn vehicles.
106. The student will compare vehicle-braking systems, and explain and demonstrate proper braking techniques for various weather and roadway conditions. Key concepts/skills include:
107. demonstrating proper use of conventional brake systems;
108. demonstrating and evaluating controlled braking, trail braking, and threshold braking;
109. engaging antilock brake system~~s~~ (ABS) and steering toward a target; and
110. analyzing how preventive maintenance reduces the possibility of brake failure and enhances safety.
111. 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:
112. vehicle warning devices;
113. lights and signals;
114. steering and suspension systems;
115. tires and braking systems;
116. cooling system and belts; and
117. fuel system and ignition electronics.
118. The student will identify and describe the legal aspects of and identify the financial responsibilities associated with purchasing, operating, maintaining, and insuring a motor vehicle. Key concepts include:
119. the Financial Responsibility Law;
120. required and optional insurance coverage;
121. title and vehicle registration;
122. vehicle inspection;
123. fuel, fluids, tires, and other maintenance costs; and
124. collision involvement.
125. The student will demonstrate competency in map-reading and trip-planning skills. Key concepts/skills include:
126. route planning;
127. map-reading and trip-planning technologies; and
128. calculating the cost of a trip.
129. The student will research and evaluate personal transportation needs and their impact on the environment and demonstrate skills necessary to be an informed consumer. Key concepts/skills include:
130. printed and Internet resources;
131. community resources;
132. vehicle pollution, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ozone-causing gases, and acids;
133. appropriate disposal of batteries, fluids, tires, and other environmentally hazardous materials; and
134. energy conservation, alternative or renewable sources of energy, and conservation of natural resources.

### DRIVER EDUCATION CURRICULUM SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

MODULE ONE LICENSING RESPONSIBILITIES

The student will demonstrate an understanding of signs, signals and pavement markings, licensing procedures, right-of-way rules, and other responsibilities associated with the driving privilege. (Related SOL: DE.1, DE.6)

1. Topic 1 Driver Education Program Goals  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Driver Education Program Goals*, students will know the core program goals for the classroom phase, in-car instruction, Parent-Teen Presentation, and be introduced to the Virginia Driver’s Manual.
2. Topic 2 Juvenile Licensing Laws  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Juvenile Licensing Laws*, students will know the juvenile licensing laws governing the requirements for Graduated Driver Licensing, identification cards, organ donation, provisional licensing, and knowledge testing by the Department of Motor Vehicles, Juvenile Licensing Ceremony, license suspension and revocation, and school attendance.
3. Topic 3 Teen Crashes and Risks  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Teen Crashes and Risks*, students will know teen crashes and risks, including the comparison of US and Virginia Crash Statistics, Top Five Causes of Virginia Crashes, Teen Crash Risk, Teen Overrepresentation in Driver Crashes, Driving Risks caused by the Teen brain, Novice to Experienced Driver Behaviors, and Risk Reduction Techniques.
4. Topic 4 Right of Way  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Right-of-Way*, students will know right-of-way rules, including identifying controlled and uncontrolled intersections, determining who has the right-of-way at T-Intersections, paved and unpaved roadways, roads crossing roads of varying sizes, entering and exiting controlled-access highways, private roadways and driveways, traffic circles, crosswalks, and what to do when encountering a funeral processions, military convoys, stationary emergency vehicle, mail or trash vehicle, vehicle with flashing lights, and school busses.
5. Topic 5 Signals, Signs, and Pavement Markings  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Signals, Signs, and Pavement Markings*, students will know what information signals, signs, and pavement markings communicate to drivers, and how to respond to this communication to maintain a safe, smooth, orderly flow of traffic.

MODULE TWO – PREPARING TO OPERATE A VEHICLE

The student will demonstrate an understanding of basic vehicle operating procedures; know that the Highway Transportation System is a complex system; know vehicle pre-driving inspection procedures that are performed during the vehicle approach and prior to entering the vehicle; know how to properly adjust the vehicle to be able to drive safely; know the Virginia Occupant Restraint Laws for adults and child passengers; and know how to locate, respond to, and operate vehicle controls. (Related SOL: DE.2, DE.4, DE.15)

1. Topic 1 The Highway Transportation System  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *The Highway Transportation System*, students will know that the Highway Transportation System is a complex system designed to provide safe, convenient, and efficient movement of people and goods from place to place that is vital to the economy.
2. Topic 2 Approaching the Vehicle  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Approaching the Vehicle*, the student will know the vehicle pre-driving inspection procedures performed during vehicle approach and prior to entering the vehicle.
3. Topic 3 Adjusting the Vehicle for You  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Adjusting the Vehicle for You*, the student will know how to properly adjust the vehicle to be able to drive safely.
4. Topic 4 Occupant Protection  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Occupant Protection*, the student will know the Virginia Occupant Restraint Laws for adults and child passengers; how seatbelts, airbags, and other safety features protect vehicle occupants; and the correct hand position for driving.
5. Topic 5 Locating and Operating Vehicle Controls  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Operating Vehicle Controls*, students will know how to locate, respond to, and operate vehicle controls.

MODULE THREE VISION, PERCEPTION, AND ASSESSING AND MANAGING RISK

The student will demonstrate the ability to manage visibility, time, and space to avoid collisions and reduce driving risks; understand and expect risk in the driving environment; know how to use the Virginia SEEiT space management system to systematically search, reduce risk and manage space all around the vehicle; and how that risk is minimized by communication with other drivers. (Related SOL: DE.5, DE.8, DE.17)

1. Topic 1 Vision and Perception  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Vision and Perception*, students will demonstrate the ability to manage visibility, time, and space to avoid collisions and reduce driving risks by demonstrating targeting and tracking skills, and synthesizing information visually from the driving environment.
2. Topic 2 Assessing and Managing Risk  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Assessing and Managing Risk*, students will understand and expect risk in the driving environment; organize and respond to risk based on its immediate and future danger level; and understand that novice drivers must practice to gain experience.
3. Topic 3 Using the Virginia SEEiT Space Management System  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Using the Virginia SEEiT Space Management System*, the student will know how to use the Virginia SEEiT space management system to systematically search, reduce risk, and manage space all around the vehicle.
4. Topic 4 Testing Your Searching Skills  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Testing Your Searching Skills*, the student will demonstrate how to use the Virginia SEEiT space management system to systematically search, reduce risk, and manage space all around the vehicle.
5. Topic 5 Communicating with other Drivers  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Communicating with Other Drivers*, students will know that risk is minimized by communication using lights, signals, flashers, horn, eye contact, friendly hand gestures, and car positioning, changing speed, or changing direction.

MODULE FOUR NAVIGATING ROADWAYS

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the laws of nature; basic maneuvers; characteristics and risks of city and urban, rural, interstate environments; how to safely travel through terrain hills, and mountains; how to safely navigate curves; and how to pass safely and be passed safely. (Related SOL: DE.3, DE. 4, DE 6, DE.7, DE.17)

1. Topic 1 Laws of Nature  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Laws of Nature*, students will recognize that the laws of nature (Gravity, Friction, Inertia, Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces), and potential and Kinetic Energy and Momentum impact vehicle balance, and provide Kinesthetic feedback to drivers so they are able to adjust acceleration, deceleration, and steering to control the vehicle and maintain vehicle balance.
2. Topic 2 Basic Maneuvers  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Basic Maneuvers*, students will know the basic procedures for pulling from and to the curb; backing; entering and exiting angle, straight and parallel parking spaces; parking on hills; and two-point, three-point and U turnabouts.
3. Topic 3 City and Urban Environments  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *City and Urban Environments*, students will know the characteristic and risks of city and urban environments, and how to apply SEEiT space management techniques to reduce risks; signage and lane marking typical of city and urban environments; turning and lane use procedures at traditional and nontraditional intersections on city and urban roadways; applying right-of-way rules; and procedures to change lanes safely.
4. Topic 4 Rural Environments  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Rural Environments*, students will know the characteristic and risks of rural road environments, and how to apply SEEiT space management techniques to reduce risks; signage and lane marking typical of city and urban environments; turning and lane use procedures at traditional and nontraditional intersections on city and urban roadways; applying right-of-way rules; and procedures to change lanes.
5. Topic 5 Interstate Environments  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Interstate Environments*, students will understand how to drive in interstate environments.
6. Topic 6 Terrain, Hills, and Mountains  
   Upon completion of Topic 6 *Terrain, Hills, and Mountains*, students will understand how to safely travel through terrain, hills, and mountains.
7. Topic 7 Curves  
   Upon completion of Topic 7 *Curves*, students will understand how to safely navigate curves.
8. Topic 8 Passing  
   Upon completion of Topic 8 *Passing*, students will understand how to pass safely and be passed safely.

MODULE FIVE SHARING THE ROAD

The student will demonstrate how to safely share the road with pedestrians, bicycles, scooters, mopeds, motorcycles, school and transit buses, emergency vehicles, recreational vehicles, and handling special vehicles including pulling a trailer, large vehicles, trains, sports utility vehicles, animals, horse-drawn vehicles, construction and farm machinery, and funeral processions. (Related SOL: DE.18)

1. Topic 1 Sharing the Road  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Sharing the Road*, students will know how to share the road with others.
2. Topic 2 Anticipating Other Road Users  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Anticipating Other Road Users*, students will know how to anticipate other road users and act respectfully, courteously, and civilly to save lives.
3. Topic 3 Sharing the Road with School and Transit Buses  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Sharing the Road with School and Transit Buses*, students will know how to share the road with school and transit buses.
4. Topic 4 Sharing the Road with Emergency Vehicles  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Sharing the Road with Emergency Vehicles*, students will know how to share the road with emergency vehicles.
5. Topic 5 Sharing the Road with Recreational Vehicles and Handling Special Vehicles including Pulling a Trailer or Towing  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Sharing the Road with Recreational Vehicles, Handling Special Vehicles and Pulling a Trailer,* students will know how to share the road with recreational vehicles, and how to handle special vehicles, including pulling a trailer.
6. Topic 6 Sharing the Road with Large Vehicles  
   Upon completion of Topic 6 *Sharing the Road with Large Vehicles*, the students will know how to anticipate and share the road with large vehicles.
7. Topic 7 Sharing the Road with Trains  
   Upon completion of Topic 7 *Sharing the Road with Trains*, the students will know how to anticipate and share the road with trains.
8. Topic 8 Sharing the Road with Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs), Animals and Horse Drawn Vehicles  
   Upon completion of Topic 8 *Sharing the Road with SUVs, Animals, and Horse Drawn Vehicles,* the students will know how to anticipate and share the road with sports utility vehicles, animals, and horse-drawn vehicles.
9. Topic 9 Sharing the Road with Construction and Farm Machinery and Funeral Processions  
   Upon completion of Topic 9 *Sharing the Road with Construction and Farm Machinery, and Funeral Processions*, the students will know how to safely interact with construction and farm machinery, work zones, and funeral processions.

MODULE SIX ADVERSE CONDITIONS AND EVASIVE MANEUVERS

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the adverse conditions that they may face on the road; how to use countermeasures to manage the adverse conditions; and how to correctly perform evasive maneuvers and countermeasures. (Related SOL: DE.14, DE.17, DE.19)

1. Topic 1 Adverse Conditions  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Adverse Conditions*, the students will understand the adverse conditions that they may face on the road, and how to use countermeasures to manage the adverse conditions.
2. Topic 2 Limited-Visibility Conditions  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Limited-Visibility Conditions*, the students will understand the limited-visibility conditions that they may face on the roadway, and how to use countermeasures to manage the limited-visibility conditions.
3. Topic 3 Construction and Work Zones  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Construction and Work Zones*, the students will understand how to drive safely through various road conditions, construction, and work zones.
4. Topic 4 Vehicle Braking Systems  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Vehicle Braking Systems*, the students will understand how vehicle-braking systems work and how to correctly operate them.
5. Topic 5 Emergency Recovery & Controlling Consequences  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Emergency Recovery & Controlling Consequences*, the students will understand how to recover in an emergency and control consequences.
6. Topic 6 Evasive Maneuvers and Countermeasures  
   Upon completion of Topic 6 *Evasive Maneuvers and Countermeasures*, the students will understand how to correctly perform evasive maneuvers and countermeasures.
7. Topic 7 Off Road Recovery  
   Upon completion of Topic 7 *Off Road Recovery*, the students will understand how to recover safely in an off-road situation.

MODULE SEVEN PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

The students will demonstrate an understanding of Virginia law for and the importance of preventative maintenance, and how to manage vehicle failures. (Related SOL: DE.19, DE.20)

1. Topic 1 Preventive Maintenance Laws  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Preventive Maintenance Laws*, students will know the Virginia law for vehicle safety inspections, vehicle registration, vehicle insurance, and headlight use, disposal of vehicle fluids, and safety issues and recalls.
2. Topic 2 Preventative Maintenance  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Preventative Maintenance*, students will understand the importance of the vehicle owner’s manual, and know the preventive maintenance requirements for the internal combustion engine, belts and hoses, lubrication system, brake system, emission system, exhaust system, engine-cooling system, and fuel system.
3. Topic 3 Vehicle Failures  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Vehicle Failures*, students will be prepared for and know what to do when, while driving if: a tire fails, including blowouts; the accelerator malfunctions; they experience engine failure, power steering failure, or brake failure; or the vehicle catches fire. Students will know how to change a tire and windshield wiper. Students will know how to make an emergency preparedness kit, and why a kit is necessary.

MODULE EIGHT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The student will demonstrate an understanding of how highways and vehicles are designed for safety to reduce traffic crashes, fatalities, and injuries; how to maintain vehicle stability and how traction control systems work; and how vehicle technology systems work and integrate into automated vehicles. (Related SOL: DE.16)

1. Topic 1 Highway Safety Design  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Highway Safety Design*, students will understand how highways are designed for safety to reduce traffic crashes, fatalities, and injuries.
2. Topic 2 Vehicle Safety Design  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Vehicle Safety Design*, students will understand how vehicles are designed to reduce the consequences of a crash.
3. Topic 3 Vehicle Stability and Traction Control Systems  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Vehicle Stability and Traction Control*, students will understand how to maintain vehicle stability and how traction control systems help.
4. Topic 4 Vehicle Technology and Automated Vehicles  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Vehicle Technology and Automated Vehicles*, students will understand vehicle technology systems and how these systems integrate into automated vehicles.
5. Topic 5 Intelligent Highway Systems  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Intelligent Highway Systems*, students will understand how intelligent highway systems are structure and their safety features.

MODULE NINE ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The student will analyze and describe the physiological, psychological, and cognitive effects of alcohol and other drugs on the driving task. (Related SOL: DE.9, DE.10)

1. Topic 1 Nature of the Problem  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Nature of the Problem*, the students will understand the nature of the problem concerning alcohol and other drugs.
2. Topic 2 Alcohol and Other Drug: Laws and Facts  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Alcohol and Other Drugs: Laws and Facts*, the students will understand the laws and facts concerning alcohol and other drugs.
3. Topic 3 Physiological and Psychological Effects on the Driving Task  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 P*hysiological and Psychological Effects on the Driving Task*, the students will understand the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol and other drugs on the body, mind, and emotions.
4. Topic 4 Synergistic Effects, Tolerance, and Elimination of Alcohol and Other Drugs  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Synergistic Effect, Tolerance, and the Elimination of Alcohol and Other Drugs*, the students will understand the synergistic effects of alcohol and other drugs.
5. Topic 5 Prescription and Nonprescription Medications  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Prescription and Non-Prescription Medications*, the students will understand the effects of prescription and nonprescription drugs on the driving task.
6. Topic 6 Refusal and Peer-Intervention Skills  
   Upon completion of Topic 6 *Refusal and Peer-Intervention Skills*, the students will understand how to use refusal and peer-intervention skills to refuse alcohol and other drugs, and rides with others that are driving impaired.

MODULE TEN DRIVER ATTENTION, EMOTIONS, AND BEHAVIORS

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of driver attention to safe driving, and how emotions, behaviors, aggressive driving, road rage, physical and mental disabilities, and temporary and chronic health conditions affect the driver’s ability to maintain driver attention. (Related SOL: DE.11, DE.12)

1. Topic 1 Driver Attention  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Driver Attention*, students will understand the importance of driver attention to safe driving.
2. Topic 2 Driver Emotions and Behavior  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Driver Emotions and Behavior, Aggressive Driving and Road Rage*, students will understand how emotions affect a driver performance, including aggressive driving and road rage.
3. Topic 3 Fatigue  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Fatigue*, students will understand the effects that fatigue have on safe driving, and how to avoid driving while fatigued.
4. Topic 4 Physical and Mental Disabilities  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Physical and Mental Disabilities*, students will understand how physical and mental disabilities affect a driver's ability to drive safely.
5. Topic 5 Temporary and Chronic Health Conditions  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Temporary and Chronic Health Conditions*, students will understand how temporary and chronic health conditions affect a driver's ability to drive safely.

MODULE ELEVEN REDUCING DISTRACTED DRIVING

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the types of distractions inside and outside the vehicle; the importance of not driving distracted; and how to limit and manage distractions while driving. (Related SOL: DE.13)

1. Topic 1 Distracted Driving  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Distracted Driving*, students will understand the types of distractions, and the importance of not driving distracted.
2. Topic 2 Distractions - Inside & Outside of the Vehicle  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Distractions - Inside and Outside of the Vehicle*, students will be able to identify inside and outside the vehicle distractions.
3. Topic 3 Limiting and Managing Distractions  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Limiting and Managing Distractions*, students will know how to limit and manage distractions while driving.

MODULE TWELVE DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

The student will identify and describe the financial responsibilities associated with vehicle ownership; understand the driver responsibilities in conserving Virginia’s natural resources; understand how to interact with law enforcement during a traffic stop so that vehicle occupants and the officer will make it home safely; understand their responsibilities after a vehicle crash; understand how to safely plan a trip; and understand the next steps after completion of the classroom phase of the driver education program. (Related SOL: DE.21, DE.22, DE.23)

1. Topic 1 Driver Responsibilities  
   Upon completion of Topic 1 *Driver Responsibilities*, students will understand the driver responsibilities in vehicle ownership.
2. Topic 2 Vehicle Insurance  
   Upon completion of Topic 2 *Vehicle Insurance*, students will understand driver responsibilities to maintain financial responsibility for their vehicle.
3. Topic 3 Vehicle Ownership  
   Upon completion of Topic 3 *Vehicle Ownership*, students will understand the driver responsibilities to purchase and maintain a vehicle.
4. Topic 4 Driving Green - Conserving Natural Resources  
   Upon completion of Topic 4 *Conserving Natural Resources/Driving Green*, students will understand the driver responsibilities to conserve Virginia’s natural resources.
5. Topic 5 Interacting with Law Enforcement  
   Upon completion of Topic 5 *Interacting with Law Enforcement*, students will understand how to interact safely with law enforcement during a traffic stop so that vehicle occupants and the officer will make it home safely.
6. Topic 6 Collisions  
   Upon completion of Topic 6 *Collisions*, students will understand their responsibilities after a vehicle crash.
7. Topic 7 Trip Planning  
   Upon completion of Topic 7 *Trip Planning*, students will understand how to safely plan a trip.
8. Topic 8 What’s Next for You?  
   Upon completion of Topic 8 *What’s Next for You?,* students will understand the next steps they should take after completion of the classroom phase of the driver education program.

MODULE THIRTEEN BEHIND-THE-WHEEL AND IN-CAR OBSERVATION

Module thirteen contains sample in-car lessons that compliment classroom instruction. Suggested in-car lessons have been developed for a standard seven period driving, seven period observing program. Sample record sheets and evaluation tools are included. Driving routes should be carefully constructed to included appropriate, safe learning environments.

1. DAY ONE – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.
2. Lesson 1: This lesson introduces the checks made by the driver when approaching the vehicle; adjustments made prior to starting the vehicle; starting procedures; and how to move the vehicle away from and to the curb. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
3. Lesson 2: This vehicle control and basic procedures lesson reinforces procedures included in Lesson 1, and introduces targeting, sightlines, path of travel and reference points. The student performs basic vehicle control maneuvers in a controlled environment. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
4. DAY TWO – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.
5. Lesson 3: This lesson introduces basic maneuvers at low speed, and in a low risk environment. The student is introduced to intersections, right-of-way concepts, turns, and parking. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
6. Lesson 4: These basic maneuvers in low risk driving environments lesson reinforces tasks learned in previous lessons, and introduces 2-point turnabouts, 3-point turnabouts, U-turns, and parking procedures. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
7. DAY THREE – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.
8. Lesson 5: This basic maneuver in moderate risk environment lesson reinforces driving tasks learned in prior lessons, and introduces the student to moderate risk driving environments. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
9. Lesson 6: This lesson utilizes a space management system to identify risk using commentary driving. Driving tasks taught in prior lessons are reinforced, and space management concepts are emphasized. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
10. DAY FOUR – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 7: Continued emphasis is placed on using space management techniques while introducing the student to more demanding driving experiences. The recommended instructional time is 50 minutes driving and 50 minutes observing. To avoid fatigue and optimize learning, the driver/observer should switch positions every 25 minutes.

1. DAY FIVE – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 8: These basic maneuvers in complex traffic situations lesson reinforces driving tasks learned in prior lessons, and places the student in more complex traffic situations. A minimum of 50 minutes driving and 50 minutes observing is recommended. To avoid fatigue and optimize learning, the driver/observer should switch positions every 25 minutes.

1. DAY SIX – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.
2. Lesson 9: In this lesson, brake failure, engine failure, accelerator failure, traction loss and collision avoidance techniques are simulated using a driving range or parking lot. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
3. Lesson 10: In this lesson, off road recovery is practiced on a safe shoulder of the road or rumble strip, and backing maneuvers that allow students to demonstrate proficient parking, driving in a serpentine, etc., skills are practiced on the range or in a parking lot. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.
4. DAY SEVEN – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 11 The final road skills assessment, conducted on a pre-determined driving route, measures the student’s level of proficiency for all skills included on Virginia’s standardized road test with no assistance from the instructor or observer. To reduce anxiety and optimize skills, the student should be given an opportunity to practice taking/observing the 25-minute road skills test, before actually taking the road test.

### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

§ [22.1-205. *Code of Virginia* for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205)

1. 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 permit to do so issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The program shall include:
2. instruction concerning;
3. alcohol and drug abuse;
4. aggressive driving;
5. distracted driving;
6. motorcycle awareness;
7. organ and tissue donor awareness;
8. fuel-efficient driving practices; and
9. 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
10. in Planning District 8, for any student completing a driver education program beginning in academic year 2010-2011, an additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component as part of the in-classroom portion of the driver education curriculum, requiring the participation of the student's parent or guardian and emphasizing parental responsibilities regarding juvenile driver behavior, juvenile driving restrictions pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, and the dangers of driving while intoxicated and underage consumption of alcohol. 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. Such program shall require a minimum number of miles driven during the behind-the-wheel driver training.
11. 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.
12. 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. *Code of Virginia* Learner's Permits; Fees; Certification Required](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335/) shall be entitled to participate in the distribution of state funds appropriated for driver education.  
      
    School boards in Planning District 8 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. *Code of Virginia* Compulsory Attendance Required; Excuses and Waivers; Alternative Education Program Attendance; Exemptions from Article.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254/)
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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;
16. from a public school, upon payment of the required fee, if the school division offers behind-the-wheel driver training and space is available;
17. from a driver training school licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles; or
18. 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. *Code of Virginia* Compulsory Attendance Required; Excuses and Waivers; Alternative Education Program Attendance; Exemptions from Article](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254/) or subdivision B 1 of § [22.1-254.1. *Code of Virginia* Declaration of Policy; Requirements for Home Instruction of Children](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-254.1/) 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.

Code 1950, § 22-235.1; 1962, c. 482; 1966, c. 208; 1968, c. 433; 1974, c. 154; 1980, c. 559; 1988, c. 105; 1989, c. 392; 1998, c. [96](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?981+ful+CHAP0096); 1999, c. [928](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?991+ful+CHAP0928); 2000, cc. [82](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?001+ful+CHAP0082), [651](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?001+ful+CHAP0651); 2001, cc. [659](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?011+ful+CHAP0659), [665](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?011+ful+CHAP0665); 2002, cc. [177](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?021+ful+CHAP0177), [386](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?021+ful+CHAP0386); 2003, c. [951](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?031+ful+CHAP0951); 2007, c. [278](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?071+ful+CHAP0278); 2009, cc. [785](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?091+ful+CHAP0785), [813](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?091+ful+CHAP0813), [840](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?091+ful+CHAP0840); 2010, c. [663](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?101+ful+CHAP0663); 2011, c. [346](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?111+ful+CHAP0346); 2013, cc. [585](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?131+ful+CHAP0585), [646](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?131+ful+CHAP0646).

### BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULATIONS GOVERNING DRIVER EDUCATION

§ [22.1-205. *Code of Virginia* for Driver Education Programs](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-205)

[8VAC20-340-10 Virginia Administrative Code Driver Education Program](http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-340-10)

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.
12. 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/).
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Students who have not successfully completed the classroom phase at one school cannot begin in-car instruction at another school.
17. 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 §§ [22.1-16](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-16/), [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*.

[8VAC20-131-100 Virginia Administrative Code Instructional Program in Secondary Schools](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-131-100)

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.

[8VAC20-340-20 Virginia Administrative Code Driver Education Vehicles](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-340-20)

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 §§ [22.1-16](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-16/), [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*.

[8VAC20-131-180 Virginia Administrative Code Off-site Instruction](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-131-180)

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 when **it** is 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](http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-131-110) 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, he 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](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 he;
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* for 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 he;
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 him. 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 his application whether or not he 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, he shall not be granted a driver's license until he reaches the age of 18 or presents proper evidence of the solemnization of his 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 pursuant to § [22.1-253.13:4](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-253/) as evidence of compulsory school attendance compliance.
9. The minor applicant shall certify in writing, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, that he 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 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 as required in § [46.2-335](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-335/), 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 he;
14. certifies by signing, together with his parent or guardian, if applicable, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner that he 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 his 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;
19. when the Department receives from the school proper certification that the student; and
20. has successfully completed such course, including a road skills examination; and
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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;
25. 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;
26. 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;
27. is the holder of a valid driver's license from another U.S. state or any U.S. territory, Canadian province, or Canadian territory;
28. has held the valid driver's license for the 12 months immediately prior to applying for a Virginia license;
29. has not been found guilty of or otherwise responsible for an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle; and
30. 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.

Code 1950, §§ 46-353, 46-361, 46-363, 46-364; 1950, p. 249; 1952, c. 396; 1954, c. 123; 1956, c. 665; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-357; 1960, cc. 110, 424; 1962, cc. 254, 482; 1964, c. 617; 1966, c. 36; 1968, c. 642; 1970, c. 41; 1972, c. 823; 1973, c. 1; 1974, cc. 223, 542; 1976, c. 8; 1977, cc. 548, 552; 1980, c. 165; 1982, c. 287; 1984, c. 780; 1987, cc. 154, 632; 1989, cc. 392, 705, 727; 1991, c. 214; 1993, cc. 471, 501; 1995, c. [535](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?951+ful+CHAP0535); 1996, cc. [943](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?961+ful+CHAP0943), [994](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?961+ful+CHAP0994), [1011](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?961+ful+CHAP1011), [1022](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?961+ful+CHAP1022); 1997, c. [841](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?971+ful+CHAP0841); 1999, cc. [459](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?991+ful+CHAP0459), [462](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?991+ful+CHAP0462), [887](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?991+ful+CHAP0887); 2001, cc. [659](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?011+ful+CHAP0659), [665](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?011+ful+CHAP0665), [851](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?011+ful+CHAP0851); 2003, c. [951](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?031+ful+CHAP0951); 2014, cc. [286](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+ful+CHAP0286), [685](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+ful+CHAP0685); 2016, c. [488](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+CHAP0488).

### 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 VR 485-60-9201, and follow the same course content 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 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.

§ [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;
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 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.
4. 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.
5. 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;
6. when the holder is driving to or from a school-sponsored activity;
7. when a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old is occupying the seat beside the driver; or
8. 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:
9. 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;
10. the driver's brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the driver; and
11. any individual who cohabits with the driver, and any children of such individual residing in the same home with the driver.
12. 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;
13. to or from a place of business where he is employed;
14. 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;
15. 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
16. 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 C1 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)

[Virginia Department of Education Licensure](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/index.shtml)

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.

[8VAC20-22-330 Virginia Administrative Code Driver Education (add-on endorsement)](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-22-330)

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 Virginia Administrative Code 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 a valid out-of-state driver’s license, 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 minimum 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 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, and 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 to provide 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/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-16/), [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*.

### 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 2 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, 504 plan, 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](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-340-20)

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/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; 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 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*.

Commercial driver training schools should refer to [24VAC20-121-220 Administrative Code Equipment Requirements for Class B Licensed Schools](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title24/agency20/chapter121/section220/).

### 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

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).

### 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. [Item 139.C.5.e.1, Chapter 836, 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly, state, in part](https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/get/budget/3279/):

1. 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**.**
2. 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 is 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).

Equipment and Supplies:

1. Simulators (purchase, maintenance, teaching materials, and software).
2. On-street equipment (roof-top signs, dual outside mirrors, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, dual control brakes for each vehicle, and other optional equipment).
3. Multiple-car-range equipment (traffic cones, communication systems, etc.).
4. 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 complements 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 or not 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 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 is able to 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 | No Data | No Data | 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 a number of 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, TDL-180, etc.,) and record forms](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/driver_education/index.shtml) should be kept for all phases of the driver education program, including program enhancement (e.g., driving simulation, range), for five years after student graduates, 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.

### VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Virtual education programs provide additional instructional choices for students in non-traditional settings through distance learning options to satisfy a driver licensing requirement. In special circumstances, school divisions allow 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. Taking a virtual course to satisfy a driver’s license requirement, however, should not be interpreted as satisfying the tenth grade health education requirement.

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

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 in Planning District 8 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 (JULY 1, 2017)

**APPLYING FOR A LEARNER’S PERMIT**

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/drivers/medical/med_forms.asp).
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-17), 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-17 also documents parental certification, 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.
4. 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**

1. DMV will send the student’s 180-day temporary provisional driver’s license to the Juvenile and DomesticRelations Court that serves the **student’s zip code**. It is very important that DMV hasthe student’s correct home address. Address changescan be done online, at any DMV branch, by fax (804) 367-6379, or bycalling toll free 804-497-7100. Change of address for a driver's license andregistration card is free. If, however, you want another learner’s permit/driver's license showing the change of address, there is a fee. Visit [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/pdf/dmv201.pdf) for a list of DMV fees.
2. 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.
3. 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.
10. Except in a driver emergency or when the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped, the holder of a provisional driver's license under age 18**,** s**hall 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.**

### 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
   1. 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

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 may drive with their home state driver’s license and license plates for no more than six months.

### HEARING IMPAIRED 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 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

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.

### JUVENILE LICENSING CEREMONY

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judges rarely have an opportunity to interact with teenagers in a positive setting. Usually, a teenager appears before the judge because he or she is accused of violating the law. The Juvenile Driver Licensing Ceremony required by *Code of Virginia* § [46.2-336](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter3/section46.2-336/) gives judges an opportunity to have a positive interaction with teenage drivers. While it is incumbent upon the judge during the ceremony to impress upon teenagers and their parents the responsibility that comes with a license to drive, this can be done in a manner that is serious, yet recognizes the excitement of this important milestone in our culture.  
  
Virginia Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judges are nearly unanimous in their support of the Juvenile Driver Licensing Ceremony. Each judge brings his or her unique style to the licensing ceremony. The ceremonies vary, depending on the needs of the jurisdiction. The majority of courts average 100 or fewer people attending each licensing ceremony. The ceremonies are held as frequently as once a week to as infrequently as once every two months, depending on the needs of the locality. The majority of ceremonies are held in the courtroom. Half of the ceremonies take less than 30 minutes, the other half takes 30 minutes to an hour.  
  
Some jurisdictions are unable to hold the ceremony in the courtroom due to the number of students who attend. The judges in these jurisdictions suggest that all typical courtroom procedures and decorum be followed. Due to heavy court dockets, parent schedules, and school schedules, there is no time of day that is convenient and agreeable to all parties involved in the ceremonies. Some ceremonies are conducted in the morning, others are held after school, and some are held in the evenings. Teens and their parents are required to dress in a manner that is appropriate to appearing in court. Observations of ceremonies across the Commonwealth indicate that attire varies from ceremony to ceremony. Some judges have deputies tell people to leave if they are inappropriately dressed. Some judges do not enforce the dress code indicated in the notice sent to the students prior to the ceremony. Most judges require the attendees to follow the normal rules of their courtroom, such as appropriate attire and not chewing gum. This adds to the seriousness of the responsibility the teen is being given.  
  
The juvenile court will send a letter with the information about the licensing ceremony to the student’s address listed for the learner’s permit. It the student cannot attend the ceremony he/she must contact the court.