

DRIVER EDUCATION CURRICULUM & ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE

To Support Driver Education Across the Commonwealth

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General Information

Contact Information

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Getting Started: Key Websites and Platforms

- [VDOE Driver Education](#)
- [#GoOpenVA](#) a free repository of instructional resources for Virginia teachers. An account is recommended.
- [Virtual Virginia](#) an account is required to access the Professional Learning courses referenced throughout this guide.

School Performance and Support Framework (SPSF)

High Expectations for Every Student and Every School

The purpose of accountability is to build trust between schools, parents, and students through transparent, concrete, and easy-to-understand reporting. Providing necessary supports and working alongside schools in need of help are key elements of the Framework. Student academic growth and proficiency are both vital measures, but the system prioritizes getting every student to proficiency/mastery.

The SPSF is composed of four components, which are weighted differently to meet the focus of elementary, middle, and high school education. These four areas include:

- Mastery- Incorporates all student Standards of Learning test results.
- Growth- Uses a student's past performance to measure how they are expected to learn from the start of the school year to the end.
- Readiness- Considers measures such as chronic absenteeism, advanced coursework in middle school, and the percentage of students demonstrating they are ready for postsecondary upon graduating.
- Graduation- Includes a cohort rate for high school students graduating with standard or advanced diploma.

The Three Pathways of the 3E Framework

Preparing students for success at the next level is a foundational component of the School Performance and Support Framework. The Framework defines Readiness differently at each level of a student's academic career.

In Elementary School, Readiness focuses on Attendance. Student attendance is a critical component of Elementary School Readiness, as students who consistently attend school perform significantly better than their peers who struggle to come on a regular basis.

In Middle School, Readiness becomes even more critical. Attendance continues to play a critical role in a child's success. In addition to attendance, students engage in more concrete career exploration activities with greater focus as interests flourish and begin to connect with high school preparation in the form of thoughtful course selection and exploration experiences to prepare students for 3E high school outcomes.

In High School, the Readiness category ensures graduating students have 3E (employment, enlistment, enrollment) outcomes that prepare them for success post-graduation. The goal is to graduate students who are prepared to continue their learning at institutes of higher education, be employed with industry credentials, or enlist in the military with credentials that will prepare them for military service.

Mission and Vision of Health, Family Life, Physical, and Driver Education

Mission: To provide statewide leadership for health, physical, family life, and driver education by establishing the *Standards of Learning*, interpreting policy, and partnering with school divisions to strengthen programs across the Commonwealth.

Vision: Every Virginia student graduates equipped to make informed choices that promote personal health, physical activity, and safety strengthening families, schools, and communities across the Commonwealth.

DISCIPLINE • DRIVER EDUCATION

Driver Education

Driver Education Connection to the School Performance and Support Framework



Quality Instruction

Fewer absences · postsecondary readiness

Classroom + Behind-the-Wheel

The 3E Readiness Framework is a core part of the School Performance and Support Framework. Driver education supports all three “E” pathways:

- **Enrollment:** A driver’s license helps students access and persist in higher education, especially outside urban areas with public transportation.
- **Employment:** Many jobs, particularly in trades, healthcare, logistics, construction, and CTE-related fields, require or strongly prefer licensed drivers.
- **Enlistment:** Military branches often require or strongly prefer recruits to have a valid driver’s license.

Content Area Webpage

- [Driver Education](#)
- [Driver Education Standards of Learning](#)
- **Driver Education Instructional Guides**
- #GoOpenVA: goopenva.org is a free repository of instructional resources for Virginia teachers. An account is needed to access resources.

Introduction

As required by [§ 22.1-205 of the Code of Virginia](#), the Virginia Board of Education has established a standardized program of driver education for public, private, and commercial driver training schools throughout the Commonwealth.

The [Driver Education Standards of Learning \(SOL\)](#) and the Administrative Guide for Driver Education in Virginia establish the instructional and administrative requirements for state-approved driver education programs. Classroom instruction and laboratory training, including behind-the-wheel instruction, observation; and if utilized, simulation, and multi-car-range activities must follow the Board of Education's standardized program of instruction.

The purpose of driver education is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed to become safe and responsible drivers. 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.

Virginia's driver education curriculum combines classroom instruction with performance-based laboratory training, allowing students to apply concepts learned in the classroom to real-world driving situations. Instruction emphasizes visual search skills, space management, balanced vehicle movement, risk recognition, and responsible interactions with other roadway users.

Parents and guardians play a critical role in developing safe driving habits. Throughout the course, students should complete meaningful guided practice with a licensed parent or guardian to reinforce skills learned during classroom and in-car instruction. Schools should encourage families to utilize the [45-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide](#) to support supervised practice.

Successful completion of both classroom and in-car driver education is required for students under age 21 to qualify for a Virginia driver's license. Upon successful completion of all program requirements and compliance with juvenile licensing provisions, eligible students may be issued a 180-day temporary driver's license. Licensing procedures shall follow requirements established by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and applicable provisions of the Code of Virginia.

Questions regarding curriculum, teacher education endorsements courses, public and private school driver education requirements, or correspondence course provider requirements for homeschool students should be directed to the [Virginia Department of Education](#). Questions regarding commercial driver training school licensing requirements should be directed to the [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](#).

Driver Education At-a-Glance

- Curriculum minimum: 36 periods classroom + 14 periods in-car (7 driving + 7 observing). A period is defined as 50 minutes of instructional time.

- Standardized road skills assessment required for the 180-day temporary license (TDL-180).
- In-car may be offered before, during, or after school, and on weekends.
- Program follows VBOE standardized program of study (8VAC20-340) and Va. Code § 22.1-205.
- Superintendents and heads of private schools must seek program approval annually from the Department of Education prior to providing instruction and certify that the proposed program meets all state-approved program requirements.

Quick Reference for Supervisors and Teachers

Use this section as a quick reference. Detailed requirements and legal language are provided in later sections.

Program Administration At-a-Glance

Requirement	Minimum Standard
Driver Education Program Approval	Superintendents and heads of private schools must seek program approval annually from the Department of Education prior to providing instruction and certify that the proposed program meets all state-approved program requirements.
Classroom Driver Education	May be taught in lieu of 36 class periods of health education or as an elective course.
Class Period	50 minutes minimum.
Classroom and In-Car Curriculum	VDOE standardized program of study.
In-Car Miles Driven	Must drive a minimum of 50 miles.
In-Car Instruction	No more than two periods of instruction in any 24-hour period, of which at least one must be actual driving.
Multiple-Car-Range	No more than four periods of actual driving and four periods of observation can count towards the 14-period in-car requirement.
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.
Road Skills Assessment	Successful completion of a standardized end-of-course road skills assessment must be achieved prior to the school issuing a 180-day provisional license.

Licensing Milestones: Students Under 18

Milestone	Requirement
Learner's Permit Eligibility	Age 15 Years, 6 Months.
Learner's Permit Holding Period	9 Months Minimum.
Supervised Driving Hours	45 Hours Total (15 after sunset).
Provisional License Eligibility	Age 16 years, 3 Months.

Licensing Milestones: Students at least 18 and not more than 21 years old

Milestone	Requirement
Initial Licensure before January 1, 2027	Option 1: Complete a driver education program and pass the driver's license knowledge exam. Option 2: Hold a learner's permit for 60 days, complete a behind-the-wheel checklist before taking the road skills test at DMV
Initial Licensure (SB396 & HB1224) after January 1, 2027	Hold a learner's permit for 90 days. Successfully complete an approved driver education course (classroom and in-car)

Note: If a student is 18 years of age or over, a TDL-180 is NOT a valid driver's license. The school mails the form to the DMV who will process it and mail the license to the address on file.

Teacher Requirements

Requirement	Details
License & Endorsement	Valid Virginia teaching license + add-on endorsement in driver education.
Driver's License	Valid Virginia driver's license (out-of-state license holders must submit driving record each semester, at the start of summer school, and after any moving violation).
Driving Experience	Minimum 2 years in varied environments (city, rural, highway).
Demerit Points	6+ points in a calendar year = removed from in-car for 24 months.
DUI/Suspension	Immediate removal from classroom and in-car. No reinstatement date given.

Paraprofessional Requirements

Requirement	Details
Minimum Age	21 years old.
Education	High school diploma or equivalent.
Driving Experience	Minimum 4 years.
License	Valid Virginia Driver's License; clean 3-year record (no DMV corrective action).
Training	Completed an approved teacher preparation program in driver education; or completed 6 semester hours of coursework: Driver Task Analysis and Principles and Methodologies of Classroom and In-Car Instruction.
In-Service	Minimum 8 hours every 2 years.
Supervision Ratio	1 endorsed teacher/administrator may supervise 3 paraprofessionals.

Driver Education At-a-Glance

At the start of each school year, public and private schools must furnish the Department of Education with the name and driver license number of all classroom and in-car driver education teachers/instructors for driver record monitoring as required by § [46.2-340. Code of Virginia Information Concerning School Bus Drivers and Driver Education Instructors](#). The DMV monitors these records throughout the year.

Program Administration

Legal Foundation

Code of Virginia: § [22.1-205. Driver education programs](#).

- The official compilation of statutory law for the Commonwealth, consisting of laws passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor.
- The Code of Virginia establishes what is required by law (e.g., that driver education may be provided, broad requirements, who may receive it).

Administrative Code: [8VAC20-340-10. Driver education program](#).

- Regulations created by state agencies.
- They spell out how those legal requirements are carried out (e.g., curriculum structure, instructional hours, delivery methods).

Reporting Required Information: Single Sign-on for Web Systems (SSWS)

[Single Sign-on for Web Systems \(SSWS\)](#) is a secure portal that allows school division personnel to access many of the Virginia Department of Education data collection systems, reports, and applications using a single login ID and password. SSWS is designed to provide a simple, secure, and reliable method for accessing education information managed by school divisions.

Each school division designates a local SSWS Account Manager who is responsible for creating and maintaining user accounts and granting access to applications. Before staff members can use SSWS, their accounts must be established and assigned the appropriate application permissions. Local Account Managers should serve as the first point of contact for access issues or other SSWS-related problems.

Each public or nonpublic school with a VDOE-approved Driver Education Program (DEP) must use SSWS to submit the Driver Education Status Questionnaire and driver education instructor information. This submission is required, with a deadline in October.

SSWS is also used to help school divisions determine and certify the behind-the-wheel fee for the laboratory phase of driver education. This submission is also required, with a deadline in June.

Virginia Driver Education Program Approval

Public and private schools must submit a [Driver Education Program \(DEP\) Report in SSWS](#) prior to beginning instruction. In addition, only teachers who are licensed and endorsed in driver education may teach the course. Schools should verify licensure and endorsement using the [VDOE Teacher Licensure Active License Look-Up Link](#).

Note: Driver Training Schools are licensed and monitored by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and must follow the same standardized program of study as public and private schools.

Basic Aid Funding and Fees

School divisions that comply with the standardized program of study and state regulations are eligible to receive state funding for driver education. Key rules include:

- Local school boards may charge a fee for behind-the-wheel driver education.
- Only fees approved by the Board of Education may be collected.
- The combined total of the fee and per-pupil Basic Aid reimbursement must not exceed the actual average per-pupil cost.
- Local school boards may waive fees, in whole or part, for students who are unable to pay
- Fee approval must be submitted annually through the Driver Education Program (DEP) report in SSWS.
- If program costs exceed state funding, the Board of Education may authorize an additional fee (surcharge) to cover the difference.

Teacher & Paraprofessional Program Requirements

Teacher Licensure & Endorsement: [8VAC20-340-30](#)

All driver education teachers must:

- Hold a valid Virginia teaching license with an add-on endorsement in driver education, or for in-car instruction, satisfy the paraprofessional training requirements.
- Hold a valid Virginia driver's license (out-of-state license holders must provide driving record at start of each semester, summer school, and after any moving violation).
- Have minimum 2 years of broad driving experience (cities, rural roads, highways).
- Possess sound physical, mental, and emotional qualities.
- Maintain a safe driving record.

Driver Education Add-On Endorsement: [8VAC20-23-320](#)

Candidates must meet ONE of the following:

- Complete an approved teacher preparation program in driver education; OR
- Complete 6 semester hours of coursework:
 - Driver Task Analysis: 3 semester hours.

- Principles & Methodologies of classroom and in-car instruction: 3 semester hours (includes minimum 14 hours of actual behind-the-wheel supervised teaching + 2 hours of basic evasive maneuvers).

Demerit Points & Driving Record: 8VAC20-340-30

Demerit Point Rule

Teachers who accumulate 6 or more demerit points in any calendar year MUST be removed from providing behind-the-wheel instruction for a minimum of 24 months. The school division loses program approval if this is not enforced. Safe driving points cannot offset the 6-point threshold.

DUI / License Suspension

Any teacher who has their license suspended or revoked, or receives a DUI arrest or conviction, must be immediately removed from ALL classroom and laboratory driver education teaching assignments.

In-Car Teacher Responsibilities: 8VAC20-340-30

The driver education teacher SHALL:

- Obtain parent/guardian permission before enrolling students in the laboratory phase of instruction.
- Have a first aid kit and fire extinguisher (min. UL 5-B:C rated) in the vehicle at all times.
- Ensure proper use of safety restraints by all occupants.
- Verify the student has a valid Virginia learner's permit before operating the vehicle.
- Have at least 2 students, and no more than 3 students, in the car (exception: 1 student with written IEP/parent permission).
- Never leave students in the vehicle with the engine running unless the teacher is also in the vehicle.
- Remove keys from ignition if parked with students in the vehicle.
- Never allow the vehicle to be used during multiple-car-range instruction without teacher supervision.

Paraprofessional Qualifications

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

- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Must possess sound physical and mental health.
- Must hold a valid current Virginia driver's license.
- Must have a three-year driving record with no DMV corrective action immediately prior to approval as a teaching paraprofessional.
- At least 4 years of driving experience.

Additional preferred qualifications include background in traffic safety, school bus driving, or retired civilian or military police officer.

Paraprofessional Training Requirements

Same as teacher endorsement options, must complete ONE:

- Complete an approved teacher preparation program in driver education; OR
- Complete 6 semester hours of coursework:
 - Driver Task Analysis: 3 semester hours.
 - Principles & Methodologies of classroom and in-car instruction: 3 semester hours (includes minimum 14 hours of actual behind-the-wheel supervised teaching and 2 hours of basic evasive maneuvers).

Upon completion of the training, the school administrator must submit the Driver Education Program (DEP) report in SSWS to the DOE, including the paraprofessional's full name, driver's license number, and date of completion. Additionally, in-service training is required for a minimum of 8 hours every two years.

Best Practices for Supervision of Paraprofessionals

Section [22.1-205\(E\)](#) of the Code of Virginia authorizes the use and certification of paraprofessionals as "teaching assistants in the driver education programs of school divisions." Under [8VAC20-340-30\(1\)](#), driver education teachers must hold a valid Virginia teaching license with an add-on endorsement or approved program endorsement in driver education ([8VAC20-23-320](#)) or, for in-car instruction, satisfy the paraprofessional training requirements. ***Paraprofessionals are only authorized to teach the behind-the-wheel component of driver education. They are not endorsed to teach the classroom portion.*** The following requirements govern the use of approved paraprofessionals in state-approved driver education programs:

1. **Supervision required at all times.** An approved paraprofessional serves as a teaching assistant and must work at all times under the supervision of a licensed, endorsed driver education teacher or administrator. Paraprofessionals may not provide classroom instruction; the paraprofessional pathway applies to the laboratory phase only. ([Section 22.1-205\(E\)](#); [8VAC20-340-30\(1\)](#))
2. **Supervision ratio.** A licensed, endorsed driver education teacher or administrator may supervise no more than three paraprofessionals. (Department of Education requirement established under the authority of [Section 22.1-205\(E\)](#))
3. **Authorized instruction and settings.** Approved paraprofessionals may provide in-car instruction (behind-the-wheel and observation), multiple-car range instruction, and simulation instruction in public schools, nonpublic schools, and DMV-licensed driver training schools (Class B) with state-approved programs ([8VAC20-340-10](#); [Section 46.2-334\(A\)\(1\)](#)). The driver education vehicle may not be used during multiple-car range instruction without teacher supervision ([8VAC20-340-30\(13\)](#)). At a licensed driver training school, a paraprofessional must also hold a DMV instructor license ([Section 46.2-1701](#)), the course must be certified by DMV as comparable in content and quality to public school instruction ([Section 46.2-1702](#)), and the curriculum must comply with this Guide ([24VAC20-121-200\(A\)](#)).
4. **Annual review and notification.** The school division, nonpublic school, or driver training school must review each paraprofessional's performance records, including the driving

record, at least annually. The Department of Education must be notified immediately if a paraprofessional fails to meet requirements or becomes disqualified. The removal standards of [8VAC20-340-30\(5\) and \(6\)](#) apply to paraprofessionals providing in-car instruction: accumulation of six or more demerit points requires removal from behind-the-wheel instruction for 24 months, and a license suspension or revocation or a DUI arrest or conviction requires immediate removal. Divisions must also submit each in-car instructor's driver's license information to the Department for driver record monitoring and maintain written employment policies based on driving records ([8VAC20-340-10](#)).

Authority: Code of Virginia Sections 22.1-205(E), 46.2-334, 46.2-1701, and 46.2-1702; 8VAC20-340-10 and 8VAC20-340-30; 8VAC20-23-320; 24VAC20-121-200 and 24VAC20-121-210.

Vehicles & Equipment

Required Vehicle Standards: [8VAC20-340-20](#).

Every driver education vehicle must have ALL of the following:

- Provide a vehicle in excellent mechanical condition, equipped with dual-control brakes, a roof top sign, dual side mirrors, and safety restraints.
- Safety restraint systems approved by the Department of State Police (per [§46.2-1093](#) and [§46.2-1095](#)).
- Provide a vehicle with a current Virginia inspection sticker and license plate.
- Insure the vehicle above the minimum amount required by state statute for liability and property damage.
- 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.

Insurance Minimums [§ 46.2-472](#)

A motor vehicle insurance policy must provide minimum liability coverage if the driver causes a crash that injures someone or damages property.

For all policies effective on or after January 1, 2025 the policy must cover:

- Up to \$50,000 for injuries or death of one person in a single accident.
- Up to \$100,000 total for injuries or deaths of two or more people in a single accident.
- Up to \$25,000 for damage to another person’s property in a single accident.

VDOE Recommended Vehicle Insurance Coverage

- Liability: \$250,000 (single individual’s injuries) / \$500,000 (multiple individual’s injuries) / \$100,000 for damage to property.
- Minimum Requirement: Coverage must meet or exceed Virginia state statutory minimums

Vehicle Procurement

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

- Rent or leased: payment may be made to dealers for administrative fees, and/or dealer preparation and reconditioning.
- 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).
- Purchase or surplus vehicles obtained through the Department of General Services, Division of Purchases and Supply or from rental agencies.
- Acquired through government auctions.
- Loaned by local motor vehicle dealers and/or others.
- Donations from local businesses, community members, law enforcement, or surplus county fleet vehicles, etc.

Ownership & License Plates

To obtain public-use license plates from the Department of Motor Vehicles, vehicle 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 public use license plates. Dealer plates from bordering states are also acceptable ([§46.2-1557](#)).

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.

Dual Control & 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](#) and [§46.2-1095](#) of the *Code of Virginia*.

Optional In-Car Instructional Equipment

Consider equipping vehicles with:

- Teacher rear-view mirror and eye-check mirror.
- Instructor clipboard / in-car traffic board.
- Mobile device for record keeping.
- Observer activity sheets/tablet/mobile device.
- Ruler or tape measure (measuring distance from steering wheel, curb, etc.).
- Hand-held voice recorder/player and timing device (stopwatch or mobile device).

- Brake/accelerator pedal extensions (to maintain 10-inch airbag clearance).
- Appropriate seat cushions (driver's chin should be above top of steering wheel).
- Traffic cones.
- Cameras and GPS telematics to enhance instruction and safety.

Scheduling & Instruction

When to Offer the Program

If possible, students should receive classroom driver education during the school semester in which they reach, or are approaching, their 15th birthday. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading health risk for teens; consequently, many school divisions offer classroom driver education in lieu of 10th-grade health education.

- [8VAC20-340-10](#). A state-approved driver education program consists of a minimum of 36 periods of classroom instruction and 14 periods of in-car instruction and an additional minimum 90-minute parent-student driver education component as part of the classroom portion of the driver education curriculum.
- Classroom driver education may be offered in lieu of 36 periods of 10th-grade health education; however, it may not replace 9th-grade health education.
 - *Note: [8VAC20-340-10](#) defines the length of a class period to be a minimum of 50 minutes.*
- Administrators should consider offering classroom driver education during first and second semesters. This approach supports developmentally appropriate practices and allows for more effective use of facilities and equipment. Older students can be scheduled during the first semester, with younger students in the second semester.
- Whenever possible, laboratory (in-car) instruction should be offered *concurrently* with classroom instruction, or as soon as possible afterward, at the same school for students who hold a learner's permit. Students who complete classroom instruction in the first semester of their sophomore year but delay in-car training until their junior or senior year may not benefit from timely application of learned concepts. Student interest typically peaks 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.

90-Minute Parent/Student Component

The 90-Minute Parent/Student Component is required as part of the classroom portion of the driver education curriculum. Because the requirement is structured as a shared session, it must be scheduled at a time when both participants can reasonably attend together. Offering the program only during the school day, or in a format that separates parent and student participation, does not align with the intent of the statute.

- To remain compliant, sessions must be provided at times and in formats that allow for simultaneous parent and student attendance.
- Communicate dates for presentations and the consequences for non-attendance to parents early and often.

There are a few statutory exemptions to the Parent/Student Component: When enrolled in driver education, no student who falls into one of the following categories shall be required to participate in the parent/student component:

- 18 years of age or older
- An emancipated minor
- An unaccompanied minor who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Course Completion and Certificates: Virginia law requires students under the age of 18 to complete classroom driver education, including the 90-minute parent/student component, before a driver education certificate of completion can be issued.

- This component is not optional for students seeking completion in Virginia.
- The standard classroom portion alone does not constitute full course completion. Schools cannot certify the classroom completion date on the certificate card if the required parent/student component has not been fulfilled.

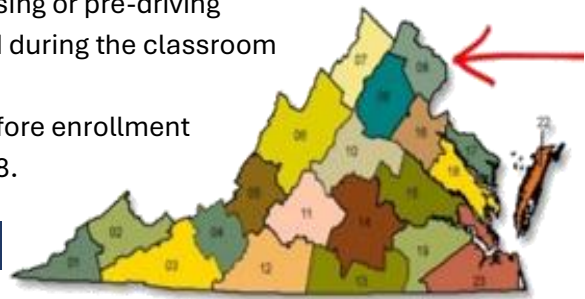
- **Students turning 18:** When a student turns 18, is no longer enrolled in driver education, it does not retroactively change the requirements that were in effect at the time of their enrollment (typically sophomore year). School personnel are required to complete certificates in accordance with Virginia law (§ 22.1-205) and cannot certify completion of a course that was not finished in its entirety.

Regional Guidelines & Tracking

- **In Planning District 8**, students and parents are **required to attend in-person**, and parent and student attendance must be tracked by the school division.
 - **The following school divisions are located in Planning District 8:** (*Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, Alexandria City, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Manassas City, Manassas Park City*).
- **Non-Planning District 8**
 - **Format Options:** As a best practice, school divisions may offer in-person presentations to large groups or synchronous virtual presentations to small groups, provided a reliable method for verifying parent and student identification is used.
 - **Tracking & Documentation:** Parent and student attendance must be tracked (recommended via student transcript, similar to the CPR requirement). Additionally, signed parent **opt-out forms** must be collected and retained if a parent chooses to opt out where permitted.

Student Eligibility

- Students must have a valid Virginia learner's permit to participate in ANY phase of laboratory instruction (in-car).
- Students with disabilities requiring special licensing or pre-driving assessments should be identified and evaluated during the classroom phase.
- Written parent/guardian permission required before enrollment in laboratory (in-car) phase for students under 18.



Driver Privilege Card

Students are eligible to obtain a learner's permit and [driver privilege card](#) if they meet the following requirements for a driver privilege card:

- They are non-U.S. citizens residing in Virginia.
- They have reported income from Virginia sources or are claimed as a dependent on a Virginia tax return filed within the past 12 months.
- Their driving privileges are not currently suspended or revoked in Virginia or any other state, including for insurance-related infractions.

Additional Information

Additional information: [DMV Form 309](#)

[Driver and Identification Privilege Card Application](#)

- When the DMV receives a TDL-180, if the student holds a DPC permit, the DMV will notify them by mail that they need to also take the DMV road skills test at a DMV office.
- The TDL-180 is not valid until the student completes the road skills test at the DMV.
- Teachers do not need to identify which students are applying for a driver privilege card or ask about their permit type or immigration/citizenship status.

Daily Instruction Limits 8VAC20-340-10

Instruction Type	Maximum Per 24-Hour Period
Classroom Periods (Regular School Year)	2 Periods
Classroom Periods (Summer School)	Same as other summer school courses (exception to 2-period rule)
Laboratory (in-car) Periods	2 periods (minimum 1 must be actual driving)

Minimum Number of Required Periods of Instruction

Instruction Type	Classroom	On-Street Driving	MCR Driving	Simulation	Observing	Total
On-Street Only	36	7	0	0	7	50
On-Street + MCR	36	3	4	0	7 (3 street + 4 MCR)	50
On-Street + Simulation	36	3	0	16	16	71
Mixed Combo (Street + MCR + Sim)	36	3	2	8	5	54

- **MCR:** Multiple Car Range (driving on a closed, off-street course with other cars).
- **Simulation:** A computer-driven simulator to practice driving in a safe, virtual environment replicating real-world driving conditions, traffic patterns, and hazards without actual risk.
- **Observing:** Sitting in the back seat actively engaged and watching another student drive.
- **The classroom portion never changes:** You must complete **36 periods** of classroom instruction.
- **Hands-on On-Street time:** If you use a simulator or a multiple car driving range (MCR), actual time driving on public streets drops from 7 periods down to **3 periods**.
- **The Simulation route is the longest:** The simulation track requires the highest total number of periods (71) because simulator hours don't substitute at a 1-to-1 rate.

HB 1352 (2026): Dangers of Reckless Driving

HB1352 requires the driver education program established by the Board of Education to emphasize the dangers of reckless driving, including driving at excessive speeds.

- A speed limit is the maximum legal speed a driver may travel under ideal conditions.
- Drivers may travel below the speed limit as long as they do not interfere with the normal flow of traffic, but it is illegal to exceed the posted speed limit.

If a driver travels 20 mph or more above the speed limit, or faster than 85 mph, the driver may be charged with reckless driving regardless of the posted speed limit.

The faster a vehicle travels, the greater the risk of serious injury or death in a crash because:

- **Greater crash forces:** Higher speeds create stronger impact forces during a collision, leading to more severe injuries.
- **Increased inertia:** Occupants continue moving at the vehicle's speed until stopped by a seat belt, air bag, or another object.
- **Less reaction time:** Speed reduces the amount of time available to identify and respond to hazards.
- **Reduced vehicle control:** High speeds make steering, braking, and maintaining control more difficult, especially in bad weather or on curves.
- **Safety systems become less effective:** Seat belts, air bags, and other crash protection systems are designed to work best within certain speed ranges.
- **Higher risk of ejection:** High-speed crashes are more likely to eject occupants from the vehicle.
- **Greater danger to pedestrians and cyclists:** The likelihood of death or serious injury increases dramatically as vehicle speed increases.

Even with seat belts, air bags, and other safety features, crash survivability decreases rapidly as speed increases:

- From 40 to 50 mph, the likelihood of death doubles.
- From 50 to 60 mph, the likelihood of death doubles again.
- At impact speeds over 50 mph, fatalities occur in approximately half of crashes.
- At impact speeds over 70 mph, the likelihood of death approaches 100%.

Assessments in the Classroom

Assessments provide information about what driving-related concepts and skills students have learned, how well they have learned them, and whether adjustments to curriculum or instruction are needed.

Two types of assessment should occur: formative (ongoing) and summative (end-of-phase).

- **Formative assessment** is an integral part of the instructional process and occurs continuously to monitor student performance, guide instruction, and support learning. These assessments provide timely feedback to both teachers and students so that adjustments can be made as needed. Examples include quizzes, homework evaluation, project-based learning assignments, worksheets, reports, verbal feedback, role-playing activities, and demonstrations. In-car formative assessment includes daily evaluation of basic skills, maneuvers, and student observer activities.
- **Summative Assessment** is a summative or end of phase (classroom and in-car) assessment. A locally designed criterion-referenced final exam is administered in the classroom to measure student achievement of the Standards of Learning (SOL).

On-street Instruction

Standard model of instruction is as follows:

7 : 7 Driving : Observation Driving 7 periods behind the wheel. Observation 7 periods observing. Standard in-car instruction model. Adjustments may be made when simulation or multiple-car-range instruction is used.		
2 to 3 students assigned to a vehicle during on-street instruction (minimum 2, maximum 3).	2 max periods of laboratory (in-car) instruction permitted in any 24-hour period.	50 min minimum length of one period of instruction.

Note: 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.

The standard in-car instruction model includes a 7:7 ratio of driving to observation (7 periods driving and 7 periods observing). However, adjustments may be made when using simulation or multiple-car-range instruction is used.

Simulation & Multiple-Car-Range Adjustments	
Actual on-road driving provides a more valuable learning experience than simulation or multiple-car-range instruction.	
WHEN SIM / RANGE IS USED 3 + 3 Students must still complete a minimum of 3 periods of on-street driving and 3 periods of on-street observation .	REPLACEMENT LIMIT 4 + 4 Up to 4 periods of on-street driving and 4 of observation may be replaced with any combination of simulation and multiple-car-range instruction.

Multiple-Car-Range (MCR) 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).

Key Rules

- Substitution ratio: 1 period MCR (driving or observing) = 1 period 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.
- Students who have mastered 'parking lot' skills on the range should graduate to on-street experiences.
- Teacher must supervise all MCR instruction.

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.

Key Rules

- Substitution ratio: 4 simulation periods = 1 on-street period.
- Simulation instructor ratio: 16 students per instructor.
- Must be taught by a teacher trained in proper role and use of simulators.

Assessment

A standardized [state-approved final in-car assessment](#) is also administered to determine whether the student has mastered essential driving skills.

- Students who pass both the classroom and in-car summative assessments, have parental permission, have held a learner's permit for the required period, meet the minimum age requirement, have no court sanctions, and have successfully mastered the course objectives are eligible for a 180-day temporary provisional license.

Note: Best practice is to share assessment results with parents or guardians.

Student Licensing Process

Step 1: Learner's Permit

(Applicant is at least 15 years and 6 months old and under the age of 18)

Student must appear at a DMV Customer Service Center and fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete [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.
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.
- 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.
- Provide an original identification document certifying name and date of birth.
- Furnish proof of residency. Parents or legal guardians of applicants under age 18 may certify Virginia residency.
- Furnish proof of legal presence in the USA.
- A list of acceptable documents for C., D., and E., above is available at [DMV list of acceptable identification documents](#).
- 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 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. If a student under age 18 fails the two-part exam, they must wait a full 15 days by law before retaking it.

- H. 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.
1. Students who wear bioptic telescopic lenses should contact DMV to find out about vision requirements.
- I. 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.
- J. 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](#).
- K. 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 [DMV medical statement form \(MED 2, PDF\)](#).
- L. The driver's license is valid for 8 years and expires on the student's birthday. Visit [DMV fee schedule \(DMV 201, PDF\)](#) for a list of DMV fees.
- M. Under [§ 46.2-334.01](#), the following escalating consequences apply when a person less than 19 years old is convicted of an offense committed when they were less than 18 years old, either (i) a demerit-point offense under Article 19 ([§ 46.2-489](#) et seq.) or (ii) a safety belt or child restraint violation under Article 12 ([§ 46.2-1091](#) et seq.) or Article 13 ([§ 46.2-1095](#) et seq.) of Chapter 10:
1. 1st conviction: The Commissioner shall direct the person to attend a driver improvement clinic. No safe driving points shall be awarded for such clinic attendance. The person's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis may also attend and receive a reduction in demerit points and/or an award of safe driving points pursuant to [§ 46.2-498](#).
 2. 2nd conviction: The Commissioner shall suspend the person's driver's license or driving privilege for 90 days (consecutive to any other suspension/revocation). The person may petition the juvenile and domestic relations district court for a restricted license to drive to/from home, employment, or an institution of higher education where enrolled, if no other means of transportation is available.
 3. 3rd conviction: The Commissioner shall revoke the person's driver's license or driving privilege for one year or until the person reaches age 18, whichever is longer (consecutive

to any other suspension/revocation). Note: Multiple convictions arising from the same transaction or occurrence do not trigger the suspension or revocation provisions.

Exam Failure Rule

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 or 8-hour driver manual course subsequent to the third failure. Students who have previously completed a classroom driver education course are eligible to complete a Virginia Driver's Manual Course, [§ 46.2-325](#).

Important notes:

- If student has a visa, the learner's permit expires when the 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.
- For security reasons, the learner's permit is mailed to the applicant within 15 to 30 days; a temporary receipt is issued at DMV.
- A learner's permit is valid only when accompanied by a licensed driver age 21 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.
- Learner's permit holders may NOT operate a motor vehicle between midnight and 4 a.m., or with more than one non-family passenger 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 of Motor Vehicles. This passenger limitation, however, shall not apply to members of the driver's family or household as defined in subsection B of [§ 46.2-334.01](#).

Step 2: 45-Hour Supervised Practice

Required Practice Hours

Students under 18 must have at least 45 hours of behind-the-wheel practice, 15 of which must be after sunset with a parent or guardian. In fact, a parent or guardian must sign a form at Virginia DMV certifying that you practiced driving.

The [45-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide](#) is technical assistance guide that provides parents with a systematic approach to guide their teen toward remaining collision-free in both low- and high-risk driving environments.

- The suggested lessons in the guide follow a sequential learning pattern that progresses from the parking lot to neighborhoods, to light traffic, to rural highways, to expressways and then to city driving.
- Each lesson provides parents with an estimated amount of time the student will need to achieve mastery; however, because students have different abilities and learning styles, parents need to spend as much time as necessary to allow your child to master the skills before moving on to the next lesson.

Research shows that in order to remain collision-free, parents must model safe driving behaviors and invest in meaningful guided practice over a long period of time to turn these skills into good driving habits.

Step 3: Completing the Driver Education Program

Successful completion of the Driver Education Program requires individuals to:

- A. 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.
- B. 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 certificates during the summer.
 1. 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.
 2. 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.

Step 4: Issuing the 180-Day Temporary License (TDL-180)

There are guidelines to follow on the issuance of the TDL-180.

- A. 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.
- B. On the parent permission form (PPF), the parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis must provide written authorization for a minor (under age 18), to receive a 180-day provisional driver's license.
 1. The PPF 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.
 2. The parent permission form must be kept with the student's school records and not mailed to DMV. In addition, as prescribed by [section 46.2-105 of the Code of Virginia](#), 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.

- C. After the student has satisfied all requirements, the public or private school providing the behind-the-wheel instruction can issue a 180-day temporary provisional driver's license (TDL-180).
- D. The parent/guardian must also sign the completed TDL-180 and furnish a Virginia driver's license number or DMV-issued identification number if they have one. Students and parents should make sure that all information on the TDL-180 is accurate before signing it.
- E. Parents should contact their insurance company to report a newly licensed driver in the family.

180-Day License Eligibility

Students are eligible for a 180-day temporary provisional license after meeting all of the following requirements: passing both classroom driver education and behind-the-wheel, passing both summative assessments (classroom final exam and Road Skills Examination), obtaining parental or guardian permission, holding a learner's permit for the required period, meeting the minimum age requirement, having no court sanctions, and successfully mastering all course objectives.

Reminder

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.

Teachers & Instructors

It is **illegal** for anyone to give false information in connection with obtaining a driver's license. The TDL-180 certificate is considered part of the driver's license application, and anyone who certifies to a false statement may be prosecuted. When signing the TDL-180 you are certifying that the statements made, and the information submitted regarding the TDL-180 certification are true and correct.

If the TDL-180 is Incomplete or Incorrect

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 license is **NOT VALID** and the student **CANNOT** drive. If stopped, the student will be cited for driving without a license. DMV will send an advisory letter to the student/parent if an error is discovered.

After issuing the TDL-180: Schools must mail the DMV copy of the TDL-180 to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Driver Training Work Center
P. O. Box 27412
Richmond, VA 23269-0001

- The 180-day temporary license (TDL-180) is valid when accompanied by a valid Virginia learner's permit.
- All restrictions, (e.g., vision, hand controls) will appear on the learner's permit and permanent license but will NOT be noted on the 180-day temporary license.
- Teachers may issue ONE TDL-180 temporary license per student.

Replacing a Lost TDL-180

If a student's wallet is stolen or the student loses the TDL-180, please issue another TDL-180 using the same information as the original.

Please give the student copy to the student.

Write “duplicate” on both the school and DMV copies and keep those in your files.

Step 5: Court Licensing Ceremony

Students under 18 may be required to attend a Driver Licensing Ceremony at the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court with a parent or guardian. The court will mail a notice if attendance is required.

- If no court notification is received during the 180-day period contact VDOE for assistance.

If the court does not require the ceremony, the driver's license will be mailed directly to the student.

For more information, refer to the [DMV list of court licensing requirements \(PDF\)](#) of courts/jurisdictions that require a juvenile licensing ceremony.

- Teachers have the authority to issue ONE TDL-180 to a student.
- Teachers should not extend a TDL-180.

Provisional Driver License Restrictions

The temporary driver's license is subject to restrictions until the driver's 18th birthday:

- A. Passenger limit: No more than 1 non-family passenger under 21 during the first year of the provisional license.
- B. After first year: may have up to 3 non-family passengers under 21 (exceptions: school-sponsored activity, licensed 21+ adult beside driver, emergencies). Please note: Driving to and from school is not considered a school activity.
- C. Drivers under 18 shall not operate a vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth between midnight and 4 a.m. (exceptions: to/from work; with parent/spouse 18+; sponsored school/civic/religious/public organization activity that is supervised by an adult; in cases of emergency including responding to fire or some other emergency as a volunteer firefighter or rescue worker).
- D. Virginia law prohibits all drivers from holding cell phones or any other wireless communication devices while driving except in a driver emergency and the vehicle must be lawfully parked or stopped.

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.

Records Retention

Accurate juvenile licensing record keeping is essential for quality assurance, public safety, and accountability. These records shall be reviewed periodically by administrators responsible for the driver education program. Juvenile licensing forms (DEC-1, DEC-8, TDL-180, etc.) and record forms should be kept for all phases of the driver education program, including program enhancement (e.g., driving simulation, range), [for five years after student graduates \(pre July 1, 2024\) and for seven years after student graduates \(post June 30, 2024\)](#), completes Board of Education program, transfers, or withdraws, and should include time frames and performance assessments.

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](#), 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](#).

Special Student Situations

Transfer Students

Students from another state must surrender out-of-state learner's permit and pass Virginia knowledge/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.
- 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.
- A transfer student who has successfully completed a state-approved 30-hour classroom and 6-hour in-car driver education program in another state must present the certificate of completion, including the number of instructional hours completed, to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles for review and approval.

Students under the age of 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 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.
- 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.

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 subsection E of [§ 46.2-334](#), and will not be subject to the nine-month learner's permit holding period.

Foreign Exchange and Boarding School Students

Note for Foreign Exchange Student Host Parents

Host parents are NOT eligible to sign the DL1P form for foreign exchange students.

Completion of a Virginia driver education program does not automatically authorize driving with a Virginia license in the student's home country.

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:

- Include a letter to DMV Image Retrieval Center with the student's TDL-180 explaining the situation and request that the student be scheduled for an earlier licensing ceremony.
- Parent/legal guardian submits 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
 - 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 Military

A dependent child of an active-duty Armed Forces member stationed in Virginia, who is 16 years and 3 months or older, may drive with a valid driver's license from their 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

UbiDuo advice is available by request at the DMV information desk.

- UbiDuo consists of two small screens with attached keyboards that communicate directly with each other. This allows a customer and an employee to communicate across the service counter by typing a conversation in real time.
- Arrangements can be made for an interpreter through the [Virginia Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(VDDHH\)](#).

Special license plates and photo IDs for hearing-impaired drivers are available at any DMV office. Drivers may request a 'hearing impaired' indicator on their driver's license.

- Arrangements can also be made for an interpreter to assist during the transaction. The VDDHH provides interpreters free of charge to DMV customers. Either the customer or a DMV employee can contact VDDHH at (804) 662-9502 to set up an appointment at DMV for the customer and interpreter.
- [Identification cards](#) for customers who are hearing impaired are available from any DMV office.
- The [Visor Alert](#) program issues visor and wallet cards to hearing impaired drivers to help these drivers and police officers to communicate more effectively with each other.

Students with Medical/Physical Conditions

A parent or legal guardian of a student with a medical or physical condition that may impair safe operation of a vehicle must provide DMV with a medical statement from a doctor. DMV evaluates the information to determine if a license may be issued or restricted. Medical forms available at [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](#).

[Medical Indicators](#): Upon request, one or more medical indicator code(s) may be placed on a driver's license or ID card for law enforcement personnel. The person must present a signed statement from a licensed physician confirming that condition. A "9" will be displayed in the restriction field on the front of the license and will be decoded on the back of the license as follows:

- Insulin-dependent diabetes.
- Speech impairment.
- Intellectual disability (IntD will display).
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD will display).
- Blind or vision impaired.
- Traumatic brain injury.
- Non-apparent disability.

[Blue Envelope Program](#)

- The Blue Envelope is a tool that helps drivers with autism during traffic stops or crashes. It informs officers that the driver may communicate differently and gives instructions to make the interaction easier.
- You can request a Blue Envelope at any Virginia DMV customer service center (CSC).
- There is no cost, and no documentation is required.

Motorcycle Permits

Refer to the [Virginia DMV motorcycle licensing requirements](#) for motorcycle-licensing requirements.

Support for Driver Education Instructors

The following organizations and pathways support current and aspiring driver education teachers.

Professional Associations

- **VADETS:** [Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety](#). Teachers pursuing or currently teaching high school driver education are strongly encouraged to join. The VADETS conference at JMU (July 12) is an excellent professional learning opportunity.

Becoming a Driver Education Instructor

- Educators interested in earning the driver education endorsement can review the [approved Driver Education Endorsement Courses](#) on the VDOE Driver Education website
-