

National Overview Of Driver Education



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General Report on Findings

Background:

In the 1970s, 95 percent of eligible students received driver education coursework in all States and the District of Columbia. In most States, one to five staff support members were put in charge of supervising driver education programs, supporting and monitoring local school districts in the program's delivery. There were funds available to State driver education programs to allow for program delivery and effective monitoring.

Currently, there are minimal or no funds available for effective program management in States and jurisdictions. Of States that offer driver education, there are approximately only 17 State supervisors of driver education programs. The majority of the programs have only one person managing these programs in an entire State.

Due to a decrease in funding and staff, there are few records available regarding the number of students attending or successfully completing driver education programs. The programs often lack monitoring for compliance with State requirements still in effect. Most programs, in whole or in part, have left the public schools entirely, or are offered after school, on weekends, or over the summer. Some programs are offered in commercial schools for a fee, or through parent-taught programs. Subsequently, documents regarding driver education or licensing requirements for each State are often inaccurate or out of date.

Approach:

An investigation was undertaken to collect information from the 50 States and the District of Columbia regarding their driver education requirements, delivery systems, teacher training, and licensing requirements for novice drivers under age 18. When available, information was obtained regarding available funding for the programs. These data were collected through a comprehensive Web-based investigation, through personal interviews, and document collection and review.

Method:

Through the use of the above mentioned Web-based documents, documents received through mailings and electronic means, and personal interviews, approximately 1,475 pages of rough data were collected. These data were then condensed and developed into individual State summaries. Relevant documents were inserted into the summaries and further synthesized into individual State tables.

A document was then developed that comprised four sections. The first contains a General Report on Findings. Section 2 contains one page charts covering various topics for each State. This information is a condensed version of Section 3. Section 3 holds multiple-page summaries about each State's driver education and driver licensing programs.

Results:

The following chart contains the number of States utilizing driver education programs in a particular manner. For example, it was found that 20 States utilized a 30-hour classroom program and six-hour behind-the wheel program.

Diver Education Programs

Program Type	Number of States
30 & 6 only*	20
Competency-Based**	2
Not Disclosed	2 (SD, WV)
Other Than 30 & 6 States	27

30 & 6 Only States, (Observation, Simulation, or Range time can substitute actual behind-the-wheel to some degree, usually specified in a ratio format).*

Arizona	Maine	Pennsylvania
Georgia	Maryland	Tennessee
Idaho	Minnesota	Utah
Illinois	Mississippi	Vermont
Indiana	Missouri	Washington
Iowa	North Dakota	Wisconsin
Louisiana		Wyoming

*20 states utilized a 30-hour classroom program and 6-hour behind-the-wheel program.

Competency-Based Programs**

Alabama
Kansas

**Competency-programs mean that the student has not successfully completed the approved driver education program unless certain skills are met at a particular level of performance. They are there to show performance competency, not success on an exam. There are minimum class times listed in summaries (Alabama & Kansas).

Other Than 30 & 6 States

State	Requirements
Alaska	6 hours b/w
Arkansas	30 c/r; 6 b/w; 6 observation
California	30 c/r; 6 b/w; 6 observation
Colorado	30 c/r; 6 b/w; + 4 c/r
Connecticut	30 c/r; 8 b/w; (22 c/r & 8 b/w at home)
Delaware	30 c/r; 7 b/w
DC	40 practice hours + 10 additional at night
Florida	4 hour DATA course
Hawaii	30 c/r; 6 b/w or sim; + 2 additional b/w
Kentucky	30 c/r; 6 b/w + 4 hour course within 1 year of licensure

Massachusetts	30 c/r; 6 b/w; 6 observation
Michigan	Seg I 24 c/r; 6 b/w Seg II 30 of 50 practice hours complete before starting segment II instruction
Montana	42 c/r; 6 b/w; 12 observation
Nebraska	Minimum 20 c/r; 5 b/w
State	Requirements
Nevada	30 c/r; max 5 b/w counting toward classroom hours at a rate of 3:1
New Hampshire	30 c/r; 10 b/w; 6 observation
New Jersey	30 c/r; 15 simulation or 3-6 b/w
New Mexico	33 c/r; 7 b/w
New York	24 c/r; 6 b/w; 18 observation
North Carolina	30 c/r
Ohio	24 c/r; 8 b/w
Oklahoma	30 c/r; 55 b/w – part of the 55 hours falls into at home practice, exact numbers are not given
Oregon	30 c/r; 6 b/w; 6 observation
Rhode Island	33 c/r
South Carolina	30 c/r; 6 b/w; 6 observation – 12 hours of simulation can replace 3 hours of b/w
Texas	32 c/r; 7 observation; 7 b/w
Virginia	36 c/r; 7 b/w; 7 observation

*Please note under Other, there are 27 States that utilize unique methods of instruction in their State programs. For information on these programs, please refer to the information below:

Licensing Requirements – Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)

The table below indicates the number of States utilizing several common GDL requirements.

Requirement	Number of States
Driver Education	31
Minimum Age*	51
Holding Period	47
Supervised Driving	39
Night Restrictions	45
Passenger Restrictions	39

*Minimum age to start all parts of licensure programs varies from State to State. For example, in one State you may begin the licensure process at 14.5, while in other States you may have to be 16. Please see the State summaries and charts for this information. Similarly, hours of parent practice, night driving and curfew restrictions also vary.

Information Regarding Other Topics

The following topics are commented on within the overview document for some States. Please note, information on these topics were not reported on for more than half the States through survey, official documents, Web documents, or personal interviews.

- Reimbursement amounts for students in public schools taking and/or completing an approved driver education course
- The number of students under age 18 taking courses or receiving licenses
- The number of credentialed teachers and their credentialing requirements
- Additional funding or funding formulas

According to some respondents during personal interviews, individual States had no real reporting and supervising body. Therefore, there was no true accountability in regard to their driver education programs and no one was truly in the know of what happens in that State.

Information below covers the agency or individual in charge of Educational and Licensure programs in each State. A chart simplifies this information and a key is located below for any acronyms. Following the chart is a verbal- and percentile-based explanation of this information.

Agency/Individual in Charge of Programs

This information is also contained in State Summaries and State Charts when available and differentiates public school and commercial school supervisory bodies.

State	Education / Public or Commercial (if one agency is listed, its assumed to oversee both)	Licensing	Not Disclosed (X)
Alabama	DOE	DPS	
Alaska	DOE	DMV	
Arizona	DOE/Ed Agency	DOT/DMV	
Arkansas			X
California	P – DOE C – DMV	DMV	
Colorado	DOR	DOT	
Connecticut	DMV	DMV	
Delaware	Secretary of Ed	DMV	
DC	DMV	DMV	
Florida	DMV	DMV	
Georgia	DDS	DDS	
Hawaii	P - DOE C - DOT	DMV	
Idaho	DOE	DOT	
Illinois	P - State Board C - DDS	DDS	
Indiana	P – DOE C- DMV	BMV	
Iowa	P – DOE C - DOT	DOT	
Kansas	SBE	DOT	
Kentucky	Transportation Cabinet	DDL; State Police	
Louisiana	DOE	Dept of Public Safety, Office of MV	
Maine	DE Unit	BMV	
Maryland	MVA	MVA	

Massachusetts	RMV	RMV	
Michigan	DOS	DOS	
Minnesota	DPS	DPS	
Mississippi	DOE; no commercial	DPS	
Missouri	DOE	DL Office	
Montana	Office of Public Inst	Dept of Justice	
Nebraska	DMV	DMV	
Nevada	DMV	DMV	
New Hampshire	P - DOE; C- DPS	DMV	
New Jersey	MVC	MVC	
New Mexico	TSB	TSB	
New York	DMV	DMV	
North Carolina	DOE	DMV	
North Dakota	DPI – Public Highway Patrol – Commercial	DOT	
Ohio	Dept of Public Safety	DPS	
Oklahoma	DOE	DOE	
Oregon	TSD & ODOT	ODOT & DMV	
Pennsylvania	DOE	DOT	
Rhode Island	CCRI	DMV	
South Carolina	DOE	Highway Dept & DMV	
South Dakota		Driver License Office	
Tennessee	DOS	DMV	
Texas	TX Ed Agency – Public Driver Training Div – Commercial	DOS	
Utah	State Board of Ed	Driver License Division	
Vermont	DOE – Public DMV – Commercial	DMV	
Virginia	DOE	DMV	
Washington	P – DOL C – DMV	DOL	
West Virginia	Board of Education	DMV	
Wisconsin	State of WI, OPSI	BDS/DMV	
Wyoming	DOE	DOT	

Key:

DOE: Department of Education
DOT: Department of Transportation
DMV: Department of Motor Vehicles or Division of Motor Vehicles
DOR: Department of Revenue
DOS: Department of State
MVA: Motor Vehicle Association
BMV: Bureau of Motor Vehicles
RMV: Registry of Motor Vehicles
DPS: Department of Public Safety
SBE: State Board of Education
TSB: Traffic Safety Bureau
DOL: Department of Licensing
BDS: Bureau of Driver Services
DPI: Department of Public Instruction

Educational Program Administration

Not all States specify a difference in administration of public and commercial school programs within the literature interview materials condensed. It is assumed in most cases that the same entities supervise both.

In terms of the number of educational agencies overseeing driver education programs, 30 are overseen by an educational entity. Driver licensing or motor vehicle entities oversee 24 programs. In four cases educational programs are overseen by some other type of agency such as law enforcement, a department of revenue or a legislative body. Only two States did not note this information.

Curriculum Guide Information

When available, official documents, electronic survey or personal interviews indicate that 33 States utilize some type of curriculum guide in conducting their driver education programs. In two instances, it is specifically noted on summary charts that a State prepared curriculum is utilized. In at least 11 States, the ADTSEA Curriculum Guide is utilized.

Licensure Program Administration

In 47 States, a licensing entity oversees licensure programs. In Oklahoma, an educational entity oversees licensure. In two States, some other type of agency oversees licensure. Only one State did not note this information.

Again, the number of agencies or entities controlling this area exceeds the number of States because it was found, as stated earlier in this report, that some States do have one entity overseeing public schools, and another overseeing commercial schools. In 19 States it was found that one agency oversaw both educational and licensure programs.

Conclusions:

Significant information has been collected concerning driver education in the United States. This data will serve as a basis for providing information to stakeholders on driver education. Individuals can refer to the summary pages or directly to the State-specific descriptions to help answer questions concerning driver education.

To assist with continued collection of information, staff will continue to collect information by placing these materials on the ADTSEA Web page and encouraging States to review and update material in their States. As a component of the State administrators' workshop, these materials will be available to participating States to update their State-specific material.

