

DRIVER EDUCATION

The Indian River School District is committed to provide eligible high school pupils a quality driver education program that is free of charge and will meet or exceed applicable requirements as may be established by the Delaware Department of Education. Title 14, Chapter 41 § 4125 of the Delaware Code requires minimal academic achievement by any student enrolled in a State approved driver education course prior to the issuance of a High School Driver Education Certificate; i.e., the blue certificate from a certified driver education teacher. In order to enroll for the Driver Education class and receive certification, the student must;

- Qualify as a tenth (10) grader as of the September 30th student count of the school year that the class is to begin
- Be earning passing grades in 5 credits at the time of certification, with at least 2 of those credits in separate areas of Math, ELA, Science or Social Studies.
- Have fulfilled the requirements of the driver education program.

A student forfeits or regains his/her academic eligibility on the day report cards are issued. Ineligible students have the subsequent marking period to bring their grades into academic eligibility.

ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE A BLUE CERTIFICATE BY A CERTIFIED DRIVER EDUCATION TEACHER

A certified driver education teacher determines if the student is meeting the requirements of the driver education course. The driver education course shall include a minimum of forty four (44) class hours of instruction consisting of thirty (30) class hours of classroom instruction, seven (7) class hours of in the car behind the wheel laboratory instruction and seven (7) hours of actual observation in the car. The class hours must not be less than forty five (45) minutes each. For those schools with varying class schedules the minimum classroom instruction must be no less than one thousand three hundred fifty (1350) minutes and behind the wheel laboratory instruction no less than three hundred fifteen (315) minutes.

If available, driving simulators may be substituted for the required hours of behind the wheel laboratory instruction but only up to three (3) hours of time at the ratio of four (4) hours of driving simulation to one (1) hour of actual behind the wheel laboratory instruction. The driver education teachers must verify with the high school principal or his/her designee the academic eligibility of the students enrolled in the driver education course.

Should a student not comply with the academic requirement at the end of the subsequent marking period, the students will not receive a blue certificate and a final grade of “Unsatisfactory” (U) in driver education will be submitted to the Department of Education on the Final Grade Form. Should the student comply with the academic requirement at the end of the subsequent marking period, the student will receive a blue certificate and a final grade of “Satisfactory” (S) in driver education will be submitted to the Department of Education on the Final Grade Form.

Students receiving an unsatisfactory grade in the regular high school driver education course may enroll in either a summer or an adult driver education course for a fee. A driver education teacher may issue a blue certificate when the student has completed and passed the driver education course and has become academically eligible.

The “date of issue” on the blue certificate shall be the actual date the student completed and passed the driver education course.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

For a student with an active Individual Education Program (IEP), the Individualized Education Program Team, in consultation with the Driver Education teacher, may make accommodations to the Driver Education program, including but not limited to, allowing multiple opportunities to take the driver education course, delaying the course until the 11th or 12th grade, taking the course across two semesters and offering specialized instruction and related services through the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

A student who is receiving special education services under an active Individual Education Program (IEP) shall be authorized until the age of 22 to complete the driver education certification. A student with an active IEP retaking the driver education course because of failing the initial driver education course shall not be required to pay a fee for taking the course additional times.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Students who complete and pass driver education while never satisfying the academic eligibility requirement will not be eligible for a Delaware driver’s license until eighteen years of age.
2. Home schooled students duly registered in the local school district must submit documentation to the adult driver education program administrator at the end of the driver education course verifying academic eligibility.
3. Students enrolled in public and/or non-public high schools with 10th grade enrollments under 25 are eligible for state reimbursement. Students in the September 30th head count for 10th graders and personally elect to not enroll in driver education when assigned are not eligible for free driver education.
4. Foreign exchange students living with a host family with a legal contract as “exchange students” may be enrolled for free in the driver education course during the 10th grade. Blue certificates may be issued. However, foreign exchange students may not drive the host family vehicle once a license is issued as depicted in the legal contracts between countries.

Adopted 3/27/90

Revised 6/25/91, 11/23/98, 4/24/01, 4/28/09, 10/27/14, 10/28/15, 2/24/20, 12/18/23