

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date:** August 27, 2012

**AGENDA ITEM No.** 12-08-(2)-10

**ACTION ITEM (Y/N)** N

**SUBJECT:** Driver Education Fee Legislation and Fee Report

**INFO. CONTACT** Dr. George McFarley/Frank Meadows/Buddy Hartley **PHONE:** 919-732-8126

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. "2012-2013 Driver Education Schedule for Orange County Schools"

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**PURPOSE:** To provide the Board of Education with an update on the driver education fee legislation and the district's fee report.

**BACKGROUND:** NC House Bill 200 enacted by the 2011 Legislature authorized LEAs to charge a fee of up to \$45 for each student attending Driver Education classes, beginning August 2011. OCS chose not to charge a fee for the 2011-2012 school year. When the legislature returned in 2012 for the short session, they made no additional appropriations to fund driver education and no change regarding the \$45 discretionary fee.

As required by board policy #4600 Student Fees, the Board approved Student Fees for the 2012-2013 school year on May 29, 2012, which included the recommended \$25 fee for driver education. The fee was approved under the proviso that the legislature would not fully fund the driver education program. As stated above, the legislature did not. Most school systems in our region charge an average of \$45.00.

In the past, driver education has been a state-funded program requiring no local revenue or fees. Over the past few years, the state allotment for driver education has been reduced every year. In 2010-2011, \$173,928 was allotted; in 2011-2012, \$144,544 was allotted. Our final allotment for 2012-2013 is \$142,796. This reflects a decrease of \$1,748.00 from last year.

With the state allotment for driver education continuing to dwindle, the need to maintain a safe and serviceable fleet of cars, the volatility of fuel costs, a large population to serve, and instructor salaries, staff recommends maintaining the \$25 fee as has been approved by the board.

Parents have been informed of this fee in several ways, to include the Driver Education website, at Open House, an AlertNow call, and when their student registers for driver education. The website has already been updated. An Op-ed discussing the \$25 fee appeared in the News of Orange on May 28, 2012. A screen shot from the website of the fee requirement is attached.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** A fee of \$25 per student taking driver education. The fee is projected to generate \$13,550.00 which will be applied to offset state cuts to the program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education receive an update on the driver education fee legislation.



## 2012-2013 Driver Education Schedule ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS

### Orange County Driver's Education Classroom Instructional Dates:

#### FALL 2012:

##### Registration #1: Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>:

Session #1: September 10<sup>th</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup> (7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)  
September 10<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup> (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)

##### Registration #2: October 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>:

Session #2: October 15<sup>th</sup> - November 6<sup>th</sup> (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)

##### Registration #3: November 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>:

Session #3: November 13<sup>th</sup> - December 4<sup>th</sup> (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)

#### WINTER & SPRING 2013:

##### Registration #1: January 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>:

Session #1: January 14<sup>th</sup> - February 7<sup>th</sup> (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)

##### Registration #2: February 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Session #2: February 25<sup>th</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup> (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)

##### Registration #4: April 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>:

Session #4: April 22<sup>nd</sup> - May 16<sup>th</sup> (4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Registration will take place in the Cafeteria Area of OHS & CRHS.

**\*\*A \$25.00 fee for Driver Education will be charged this year (due to N.C. Legislative cuts to Driver Education funds). This fee will be collected during classroom instruction. Cash, Check or Money Order will be accepted. (Checks and money orders made out to OCS Driver Education Program). Thank you!!!**

\*For more Program Information:

**Contact: Buddy Hartley, Driver Education Coordinator @ #732-6133 (Ext. #20911)**