

## **Driver Education frequently asked questions Montgomery County Schools**

### **What are the age requirements for Driver Education?**

You must be 14 ½ years old on the first day of class. The driver education curriculum includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind the wheel instruction.

### **Who needs Driver Education?**

Anyone under the age of 18 wanting to apply for a NC learner's permit or driver license.

### **Is there a charge for driver education through the public schools?**

Yes. The 2013 North Carolina General Assembly in its Appropriations Act (SB 402) has authorized each LEA to charge a fee of up to \$65.00 for each student enrolled in Driver Education. Each eligible student under [North Carolina General Statute 20-88.1](#) is afforded a **one-time opportunity** through the school system to receive a driver education course. After that, a student would need to obtain instruction privately through a commercial provider.

### **Who will I pay this fee to?**

This \$65.00 fee is being collected for the classroom theory phase of Driver Education. Go to the office at the school you attend and they will direct you to the proper person.

### **Where are the classroom sessions held?**

On the campus of the school you are attending. School office personnel can direct you to the proper classroom, register you for class and take the required payment. Payment must be made 1 week prior to class. If you need to make installment payments or have a hardship in paying the fee please discuss it with the office personnel.

### **When will Behind-the-wheel instruction be held?**

One of the Driver Education Facilitators will contact you when it is your turn for behind-the-wheel instruction. Students who are age appropriate (14 ½) when they register and take the class will complete behind-the-wheel instruction prior to their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Those who wait until almost or after their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday cannot expect to be put ahead of students who registered in a timely manner. Please understand 30 students can go through the classroom session in 2 weeks but that equals 180 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction at 4 hours per day AFTER REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS.

### **We live in Montgomery County, but attend a private school in a neighboring county. Where do we take driver education?**

State funding requires that you take the course in the county where you are currently enrolled in school. In other words, the public school in the county where your private school is located is responsible for providing you with the program.

## **What is the Graduated License Program?**

This program took effect on December 1, 1997. It requires that a licensee hold a valid learners permit violation free for at least 12 months before being eligible for an unrestricted license or be 18 years old.

## **What is the Drop Out Prevention Driver License Program?**

This program took effect on August 1, 1998. It requires that the licensee pass at least 70% of their courses and be currently enrolled in school. Progress is reevaluated every six months. This requirement will terminate with a high school diploma or on the 18th birthday. This law applies to Learner's Permits and Driver License.

## **I just finished Driver Education and I want to get my license?**

Young drivers, who receive their license after December 1, 1997, must go through the Graduated License Program. Basically, you must have a learner's permit for one year, violation free, or until you turn 18 years old.

## **I have finished Driver Education and I want to get my license. What do I need to take with me to the DMV license office?**

### **Learner's Permit**

1. Birth Certificate - Certified copy from the Register of Deeds office. Photocopies will not be accepted.
2. Driver Education Certificate.
3. Mom or Dad, Legal Guardian or Step Parent to sign for students under 18.
4. \$20.00 cash, check, debit or credit cards.
5. Arrive no later than 4:00 PM to take the written test. If they are extremely busy, the DMV may refuse to test you and ask you to return the next day.
6. **Social Security Card.**
7. Accompanying parent's driver license number.
8. Eligibility Certificate issued by **YOUR HIGH SCHOOL** certifying that you are passing 70% of your courses. **YOU MUST TAKE YOUR DRIVER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE, TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THIS CERTIFICATE.**

**\* Proof of insurance is NOT required to obtain a learner's permit.**

### **Driver's License**

Same as above with the following exceptions.

1. Learner's permit can be substituted for the birth certificate and Driver Education certificate.
2. Go to the DMV in the AM or call to make an appointment for the driving skills test (road test).
3. Proof of insurance is required to obtain a driver's license.
4. Log showing 60 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction

### **Where should I go to apply for my driver's license?**

You may apply for a driver's license at any Department of Motor Vehicle Driver's License Office within the state of North Carolina, however there is an office located here in Montgomery County.

### **Where can I get a Driver Education Course Completion Certificate?**

Your BTW instructor will issue this certificate upon successful completion of your BTW training.

### **How long is my Driver Education Course Completion Certificate valid?**

This certificate does not expire and is valid indefinitely. Please place it with your important documents for safekeeping and for future reference.

### **How does my son/daughter receive the Driving Eligibility Certificate (DEC)?**

You must contact the principal or principal's designee at your high school's main office and fill out the necessary documents. A Driving Eligibility Certificate cannot be issued without the parent's written consent, so a parent or guardian must be present to sign this document. Student must show to the school a Driver Education Course Completion Certificate issued by the Driver Education instructor.

### **How long is my Driving Eligibility Certificate (DEC) valid?**

This certificate is valid for only 30 days. An updated certificate is necessary after 30 days of receiving the first one. You must follow the same procedure when requesting the update as you did when you requested the first one. NOTE: Students must be 15 years old to receive this document. Please allow 5 to 10 days for processing to receive this certificate after your request is submitted to your high school's main office.

### **My son/daughter does not attend public school. May we participate in the driver education program?**

Yes, according to North Carolina General Statute 115C-551 - Voluntary participation in the State programs. This statute states: "Any such student may, on a voluntary basis, participate in any State operated or sponsored program." Additional information is available through the North Carolina Division of Non-Public Education.

### **My son/daughter attends a private school, or licensed home school in Montgomery County. How do we receive a Driving Eligibility Certificate?**

You must contact your private school's main office or for home schooled students, the NC Division of Non-Public Education for this certificate.

## **We live in Montgomery County; however, my son/daughter attends a private school out-of-state. How do we receive a Driving Eligibility Certificate?**

You must request and show necessary official school records from the school that your son/daughter is attending to the principal or the principal's designee of the Montgomery County school in which your son/daughter would be attending based on your street address in order to prove eligibility to receive this document. These official records need to certify current and active enrollment and show adequate progress toward graduation and will have to be updated every six months until your son/daughter receives a high school diploma or reaches age 18. State and local policy dictate that parents allow at least 5 to 10 school days to receive this certificate.

## **Is the NC Drivers Handbook available in Spanish?**

Yes, below is a link to the NC DMV website for a Spanish version.

[https://www.ncdot.gov/download/dmv/handbooks\\_ncdl\\_spanish.pdf](https://www.ncdot.gov/download/dmv/handbooks_ncdl_spanish.pdf)

## **Are there any new NC laws that will affect me or my son/daughter?**

**Yes.**

Effective January 1, 2013, SESSION LAW 2011-385 AMENDED SENATE BILL 636 (Driving Log Legislation) will become law.

The official practice driving log will be available from local DMV offices on January 1, 2012. You may also download an app on your smart phone titled **"Road Ready"**. With this app you can keep you long online, across any cell phone, tablet or computer, and then print the log when you are ready to go to the DMV to take your road test.

**Level 2:** A person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old may obtain a limited provisional license if the person meets the following requirement:

Has completed a driving log, on a form approved by the Division of Motor Vehicles, detailing a minimum of 60 hours as the operator of a motor vehicle of a class for which the driver has been issued a limited learner's permit. The log must show at least 10 hours of the required driving occurred during nighttime hours. No more than 10 hours of driving per week may be counted toward the 60-hour requirement. The driving log must be signed by the supervising driver and submitted to the Division at the time the applicant seeks to obtain a limited provisional license. If the Division has cause to believe that a driving log has been falsified, the limited learner's permit holder shall be required to complete a new driving log with the same requirements and shall not be eligible to obtain a limited provisional license for six months."

**Level 3:** A person who is at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old may obtain a full provisional license if the person meets the following requirements:

Has completed a driving log, on a form approved by the Division of Motor Vehicles, detailing a minimum of 12 hours as the operator of a motor vehicle of a class for which the driver is licensed. The log must show at least six hours of the required driving occurred during nighttime hours. The

driving log must be signed by the supervising driver for any hours driven outside the provisions of subdivision (e)(2) of this section and submitted to the Division at the time the applicant seeks to obtain a full provisional license. If the Division has cause to believe that a driving log has been falsified, the limited provisional licensee shall be required to complete a new driving log with the same requirements and shall not be eligible to obtain a full provisional license for six months."

**Immediate civil license revocation for provisional licensees charged with certain offenses:** A provisional licensee's permit or license is subject to immediate revocation for 30 days under this section if a law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the provisional licensee has committed a criminal moving violation (such as reckless driving, impaired or aggressive driving, or exceeding the speed limit by 15 mph), the provisional licensee is charged with that offense, and the provisional licensee is not subject to a civil revocation pursuant to G.S. 20-16.5.

### **Ban Texting While Driving Legislation:**

Effective December 1, 2009 it is illegal for any driver, regardless of age or level of driver's license, to use additional technology associated with a mobile phone while operating a vehicle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area. According to **G.S. 20-137.3(a)(1)** "additional technology" is defined as any technology that provides access to digital media including but not limited to a camera, email, music, the Internet, text messaging, or games.

### **New law prohibits state name, stickers being hidden on license plates**

Beginning December 1, 2009, Operators can be cited, later fined.

Beginning Tuesday, December 1, 2009, a new law went into effect that requires the state's name across the bottom of the plate as well as the year and month stickers on a license plate to be fully visible. They can no longer be partially covered by a license frame. Vehicle owners can be cited for committing an infraction and, after November 30, 2010, fined \$100 for the violation. The law was introduced in the 2009 session of the General Assembly and was supported by law enforcement officials because it increases the readability of registration information on the plate and helps identify vehicles registered in North Carolina.

### **Seat Belt Legislation:**

Effective December 1, 2006, (SL 2006-140) all persons in your vehicle must be properly restrained by either a seat belt or child safety restraint. This new law applies to all drivers. Any driver or front seat passenger who fails to wear a seat belt as required by this law shall have committed an infraction and shall pay a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.50) plus court costs in the amount of fifty dollars (\$153.50). Any rear seat occupant of a vehicle who fails to wear a seat belt as required by this law shall have committed an infraction and shall pay a penalty of ten dollars (\$10.00) and no court costs. No driver's license points or insurance surcharge shall be assessed because of a violation of this law.

**Cell Phone Legislation:**

Effective December 1, 2006, (SL 2006-177) it is illegal for a driver under the age of 18 to talk on a hand-held or hands-free cell phone while operating a motor vehicle and that vehicle is in motion. Exceptions are made for 911 emergency calls or calls to the police or calls to doctors and/or hospitals. Exceptions are also made for calls to the driver's parents and/or guardian or spouse. Any person violating this law shall have committed an infraction and shall pay a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and remain at the driver's current level of restricted license for an additional six months. This is an offense for which a defendant may waive the right to a hearing or trial and admit