

Appendix D: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to enroll in Driver Education in Halifax County?

In Halifax County, a student may begin Driver Education once they are **at least 14½ years old on the first day of class** and are enrolled in a public, private, charter, or registered homeschool located within Halifax County. As in other North Carolina districts, eligibility is tied to the school the student attends, not simply the county of residence. A student must not have previously completed or failed to complete a Driver Education course elsewhere in North Carolina, since state rules permit enrollment only once.

2. How is the course structured and how long does it take?

Halifax County's program mirrors the state-required structure: students complete **30 hours of classroom instruction** (online or in-person depending on the district's schedule) and **a minimum of 6 hours of behind-the-wheel driving plus 6 hours of observation**. Coursework is completed outside the regular school day, and the class typically lasts about three weeks. Behind-the-wheel instruction usually follows several weeks to a few months later, with students contacted in order of age, beginning with the oldest.

3. How do students register, and is there a fee?

Registration is completed online through Halifax County Schools' Driver Education portal. The process involves submitting student information and paying the district-established course fee of \$55. Placement is determined by the school the student attends or the closest community school. Students must sign up under that campus rather than selecting another school.. Registration is considered complete only after both the form and payment have been submitted online. Families will receive a confirmation receipt after submission.

4. What paperwork is needed for the vision screening?

Before behind-the-wheel training can begin, students must pass a vision screening provided by a DMV representative. They must bring a completed Restricted Instruction Permit ("800 Form"), signed in original ink by a parent/guardian, along with their birth certificate and any required homeschool verification if applicable. DMV will not accept altered, copied, or double-sided forms, and any incorrect paperwork will delay scheduling.

5. How is behind-the-wheel training scheduled, and what are the expectations?

Driving sessions occur on school days after dismissal or on Saturdays and are limited to times permitted by state law which is no earlier than one hour before sunrise and no later than one hour after sunset. Students may drive up to three hours on school days or four hours on non-school days. Instructors drive with two students at a time, and students must arrive and be picked up promptly; habitual late arrivals or pickups may prevent a student from continuing. Cell phone use is not permitted in the vehicle during instruction.

6. What happens if the weather is bad?

If Halifax County Schools dismisses early for weather, all behind-the-wheel instruction is automatically cancelled. If school opens late, driving may continue depending on district guidance. If driving begins and conditions deteriorate, the instructor will immediately return students to school, and families will be

contacted for pickup. Students may never be left unsupervised, and instructors must use caution when determining whether roads are safe for training.

7. What documents do students need for the DMV to obtain a Level 1 Learner Permit?

Students will need to bring the following to DMV: their Driver Education Completion Certificate; a Driving Eligibility Certificate issued by their school (valid for 30 days); an original birth certificate; Social Security card; proof of residency; a parent or legal guardian with a valid license; and the permit fee. Students must also pass the DMV's written, signs, and vision tests.

8. How can a student lose or have their Driving Eligibility Certificate revoked?

The state may revoke a student's Driving Eligibility Certificate for three reasons: dropping out of school before age 18, failing to make adequate academic progress, or committing certain serious disciplinary offenses such as possession of alcohol or drugs at school, bringing a weapon on campus, or assaulting school staff. Revocations last one year unless specific hardship or reinstatement conditions are met.

9. Can families choose a private driving school instead of the district?

Families may use a private driving school at their own expense at any time. If a parent chooses to transfer training, Halifax County Schools will provide the student's 800 Form and required release paperwork, and the district will keep a copy for its records. Once a student transitions to a private provider, they may not return to the school system's program, so families should make that decision carefully.