

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can my child take driver education?

You may first want to check to see if the school district within which you reside offers driver education. You may also want to contact neighboring school districts to see if they accept students who reside outside of their district. Finally, there may be driver training schools in your area. They are usually listed in the Yellow Pages under the heading "Driving Instruction."

What things should I consider when determining where to send my child?

All driver education programs must offer at least the same minimum hours of instruction, that being 24 hours of classroom and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel, spread over not less than three weeks. All programs must also teach the same performance objectives during segment 1 driver education. After that, here are some issues you may want to consider:

- **Cost.** There are only a handful of public school programs that no longer charge a fee, so you should expect to pay for driver education. The average fees range from \$200 to \$400. Be sure to identify if the fee you are quoted includes segment 2 or not. Other potential fees you want to be aware of include:
 - **Pick-up/drop-off.** Although some schools may offer this convenience, there may be an addition cost.
 - **Materials.** Is there a cost for the textbook or other materials?
 - **Replacement certificate.** If a certificate is lost, is there a fee to replace it?
 - **Missed drive.** If a behind-the-wheel lesson is missed, is there a fee to reschedule the drive?
 - **Additional drives.** If the instructor determines that additional drives are needed, is there a fee for the instruction?
- **Refund policy.** Is there a refund policy for the student dropping out of the program, or will he or she be allowed to re-enroll in the next class?
- **Attendance/disciplinary policy.** What is the attendance policy, and will the student be allowed to make up missed days (separately or during a future class)? What criteria is there to warrant dismissal from a class?
- **Proximity to home.** Since most programs offer 12 two-hour classes, plus an additional 6 one-hour driving lessons, you may be looking at upwards of 18 trips back and forth to class (although some schools offer pick up and drop off at home services for driving lessons for a fee).

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- **Instructor qualifications.** All driver education program instructors must be certified by the Department of State biennially (every two years).
- **Teaching materials.** What types of resources does each program use? Do they use a textbook? Are the materials up-to-date?
- **Reputation.** Check with neighbors and/or classmates as to their satisfaction with the driver education provider(s).

My child has special needs. What accommodations can or will be provided?

The Americans With Disabilities Act requires all providers to make reasonable accommodations for students with special needs. It also does not allow for schools to charge additional fees to students who may need such assistance as adaptive devices, an interpreter, etc. Visit the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns website at www.michigan.gov/cis or call 1-877-499-6232 for general information.

Is there financial assistance for my child to take driver education?

Pursuant to Public Act 71 of 2004, the driver education fund, which had provided partial reimbursement to driver education, was eliminated in 2004. Currently, there is no funding available from the state. You may want to contact local agencies to inquire about financial assistance.

My child took driver education in another state. Will his permit/license be accepted in Michigan? Who do I talk to about it?

It might be accepted. You will want to telephone the Department of State Information Center (517-322-1460). The student will be directed to submit specific paperwork directly to the Department's Central Office or to visit a branch office, depending on their specific situation. If it is not accepted, the student will need to enroll in segment 1 of an approved driver education program.

We will be moving to another state. Will a driver education certificate of completion received in Michigan be recognized by another state?

There is no automatic reciprocity with other states with regards to driver education course work and completion certificates. You will need to contact the licensing agency in the other state to see if they will accept the course work and/or certificate.

There are a number of driver education programs and on-line courses offered over the Internet. Are they acceptable in Michigan?

No. For a teenager (under the age of 18) to be issued a level 1 license, he or she must present a Michigan Department of State segment 1 certificate of completion at a branch office. Although Internet-based courses and driver education products sold over the Internet may be valuable supplemental materials, they cannot be substituted for an approved driver education program offered in Michigan.

I home school my children. Can I home school them in driver education?

No. Home school and/or parent taught driver education is not accepted in Michigan. Students must attend either an approved public, private, or parochial school driver education program, or an approved and licensed driver training school program.

I have a complaint. What should I do?

First, you must try to resolve the problem with the school. If it is with a driver training school, the school's owner will have the ultimate authority to resolve the issue. If the problem is with a public school, the principal or community education director, and superintendent may need to be involved (depending on where in the district the program is administered). If you have a complaint which you cannot settle with a school, write: Michigan Department of State, Driver Programs Division, 430 W. Allegan, 3rd Floor, Lansing, MI 48918.