



Driver Education Curriculum (30 Hours)

Introduction

This model curriculum was created by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to meet the mandates of Senator John Vasconcellos' Senate Bill 946 that was passed on July 28, 1999. The bill, in part, required the development of a curriculum that would be used in a two year pilot study to determine the efficacy of four teaching methods of driver education.

To produce this model curriculum, DMV Staff utilized the California Vehicle Code, the California Driver Handbook, the California Parent Teen Training Aide and the Course Core Topics and Requirements for State of California, Department of Motor Vehicles Approved Driver Education Program.

Background

Prior to 1998 driving schools were only provided general guidelines to assist them in the preparation of their lesson plans. The basic requirements and subject areas to be taught were provided, but information on what knowledge was to be imparted to the student in each subject area was not provided. In 1998 the department developed the Core Course Topics and Requirements Guidelines for Approved Driver Education. These new guidelines provided, in outline form, each required subject and what should be taught about that subject. This significantly enhanced the ability for driving schools to develop a lesson plan that met the Department of Motor Vehicles' expectations, and ensured driving school instructors imparted safe driving principles to new drivers.

In late 1999 the Core Course Topics and Requirements for Approved Driver Education Programs were enhanced to include contemporary driver safety areas. The added topic areas were: risk taking, substance abuse, road rage, and the teenager as an inexperienced driver and are included in this model curriculum.

Purpose

This model curriculum is to be used as an aid by an instructor in imparting the applicable laws and rules of the road in California and safe driving behavior to new drivers. The curriculum includes learning objectives for each required subject area that shall be imparted to new drivers, and are consistent with the Department of Education Guidelines for driver education. Driving school instructors are required to complete at least 60 hours of instructor training and have substantive knowledge in the teaching techniques of driver

education prior to teaching driver education classes. The instructor is also expected to utilize training resources in conjunction with this model curriculum to provide driver education to new drivers. A list of possible resources is included in the curriculum. The instructor's classroom instruction should be tailored to emphasize to students the critical need for driver safety. This is largely due to two statistical facts that are relevant to new drivers under the age of 18:

1. The accident rates for new drivers are extremely high and are not reduced until an individual has driven for at least 3 years.
2. The judgment of young drivers is undeveloped and results in excessive risk taking.

The course material must be presented in a manner that utilizes educational methods that have been demonstrated to work for new drivers. This may include the following:

- Lecture
- Films and review
- Student reading and review
- Tests and review
- Guest Speaker
- Demonstration
- Discussion

Class instruction time shall be a minimum of 1500 minutes (25 hours). Breaks may range from 5 to 10 minutes.

Each student may receive a maximum of seven (7) hours of instruction per day.

Films, at least five (5), utilized for instruction shall comprise no more than 180 minutes of the total class time. The focus of the films must be on educating students in the safe operation of motor vehicles, and must be appropriate for students between the ages of 15 and 18.

Textbooks must be written solely for the purpose of imparting the fundamentals of driving and the rules of the road in a practical and realistic manner. A textbook must be provided to each participating student.