

Curriculum Guide for Driver Education in Virginia

Senate Joint Resolution 378

Vanessa Wigand

Principal Specialist for Driver Education, Health Education and Physical Education

Information was Requested for the Following Topics

- ✓ Driving simulators
- ✓ 90-hour semester course
- ✓ Program costs for in-car driver education
- ✓ Basic Aid reimbursement
- ✓ Parent involvement program

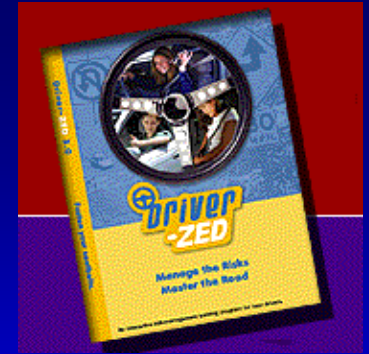
Driving Simulators

- ✓ Simulators have been used for over 30 years.
- ✓ Costs for driving simulators range from \$25 for desktop software to \$150,000 for full-sized vehicle body, with six-axis movement and 360-degree visual displays.





Driving Simulators Classroom Instruction



- ✓ Simulators are an effective tool for classroom instruction. "What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand."
(Confucius 451 BC)
- ✓ They offer a safe environment for making risk-reducing decisions in urban, suburban and rural environments, on highways, in snow or fog, at night, and in situations where the driver must execute basic, evasive driving maneuvers.



Driving Simulators In-Car Instruction



- ✓ Driving simulators are far from reproducing the sensory experience of driving a real car.
- ✓ Teachers must make sure students overcome the mentality that simulation is “just a video game”.
- ✓ Home Simulation Driving Games: Research shows 1/4 of young drivers admit to taking greater driving risks after a gaming session.

Public School Driver Education Programs That Include Simulation

- ✓ Arlington County, Bath County, Bristol City, Campbell County, Chesapeake City, Hanover County, Henrico County, King William County, Richmond City, Newport News City, Northampton County, and Wythe County
- ✓ In 2006, the average crash rate for public schools was 10.3 and for schools with simulation the rate was 10.0
- ✓ It is important to note that these programs also include many “extras” (e.g., parent involvement requirements, multiple car and crash avoidance ranges, and skid cars)

Divisions Offering a 90-Hour Semester Program

Arlington County, Bland County, Charles City County, Dickenson County, Henrico County, Orange County, Roanoke County, Salem City, Suffolk County, Washington County.

The crash rates for Arlington, Bland, Charles City and Henrico County are lower than the state average. The crash rates for the other school divisions are significantly higher than the state average.

Cost of the In-Car Program

- ✓ Average cost for a public school in-car program is \$189
- ✓ The average fee charged to public school students is \$72
- ✓ Students eligible for free and reduced lunch are charged a reduced fee or are not charged for these services
- ✓ No fee is charged in 24 divisions—mainly rural school divisions
- ✓ Average cost for commercial schools is approximately \$275 (source: phone calls and Internet)

State Aid for Driver Education

- ✓ Item 135.C.5.e.2, Chapter 847, 2007 Virginia Acts of Assembly, states: “Local school boards may charge a per pupil fee for behind-the-wheel driver education provided, however, that the fee charged plus the per pupil basic aid reimbursement for driver education shall not exceed the actual average per pupil cost....
- ✓ In 2006, the average per pupil reimbursement was \$80.73.
- ✓ These funds allow program access for low income families, lower cost for schools and citizens, and provide services to students with disabilities.

SOQ Basic Aid for Driver Education

- ✓ Source of funds – \$3 learner's permit fee, (per Section 46.2-335), and \$1.50 of each original or renewal driver's license fee, (per Section 46.2-332), is deposited into the Driver Education Fund.
- ✓ Per the Appropriation Act, these funds are distributed on a per pupil basis using ADM.
- ✓ Per pupil state reimbursement for classroom and in-car instruction in North Carolina is \$285, and in Delaware it is \$457.

Public School In-Car Services Are Declining

Public schools NO longer offer in-car driver education services in the following divisions:

Alexandria, Appomattox, Boutetourt, Clark, Danville City, Greene, Manassas Park, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Rappahannock, Roanoke County, Spotsylvania, Sussex, Warren, and York

Parent Programs

- ✓ Prince William County Public Schools coordinates the *Partners for Teen Safe Driving* parent program for Virginia
- ✓ At this time, 35 school divisions will be offering the *Partners for Teen Safe Driving* parent program during the 2007-08
- ✓ These 35 school division represent 58% of the parents of students eligible for a driver's license
- ✓ Parent satisfaction on exit evaluation is 98%

Public/Private Schools Participating In the *Partners for Safe Teen Driving* Parent Program

2007 School Year

Counties: Albemarle Arlington
 Botetourt Chesterfield
 Cumberland Isle of Wight
 Essex Loudoun
 Montgomery Powhatan
 Prince William Washington
 Stafford

Cities: Alexandria Danville
 Richmond West Point
 Martinsville

Roanoke Catholic High School

Launching 2008 School Year

Counties: Appomattox Bedford
 Gloucester Charles City
 Culpeper Fairfax
 Frederick Henrico
 Highland Page
 Westmoreland Franklin
 Northumberland

Cities: Virginia Beach
 Norfolk
 Suffolk

PARTNERS FOR SAFE
TEEN DRIVING
A COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

Bonnie Conner-Gray

**Educational Specialist for
Health Education, Physical Education and
Driver Education
Henrico County Public Schools**