

**VSBPE**

**Date: February 13, 2019**

**Item: Driver & Traffic Safety Education Requirements for Discussion**

**ITEM: Discussion for revisions to the current Driver & Traffic Safety Education Requirements**

**BACKGROUND:** It has been difficult over the last few years for School Districts to find qualified Driver Education Instructors for In-Class Instruction and In-Vehicle Instruction. Some of this is due to the elimination of the program from the VT Higher Education Collaborative.

**RATIONALE:** The VSBPE Board has had a few waivers recently for Driver & Traffic Safety Education which raised concern about the Bachelor's degree requirement.

**Questions for Consideration:**

- 1) Does the Licensing Committee recommend that the VSBPE Board revise the current Driver & Traffic Safety Education requirements? If so, what are those revisions to the requirements?
- 2) What is the rationale to support such a recommendation?
- 3) Would this have any ramifications on school districts who employ Driver and Traffic Safety Education Instructors?
- 4) How would the Licensure Committee like to move forward with request?

Attached:

- Current requirements for Driver and Traffic Safety Education
- Possible options for discussion
- NH and ME Requirements

## **5440-30 Driver and Traffic Safety Education**

(Revised May 2016)

*The holder is authorized to teach driver and traffic safety education in grades 9-12.*

In order to qualify for this endorsement, the candidate shall demonstrate the following:

Knowledge Standards:

1. The educator demonstrates a thorough knowledge of:

- a) In-vehicle instructional techniques
- b) The zone control system of driving entailing visual tracking and risk assessment process of driving including concepts of space management and risk management and risk prevention.
- c) Traffic safety education, including methods and materials for teaching driver and traffic safety education, and administration of a driver and traffic safety education program
- d) General traffic safety (e.g., other highway users), relevant state and vehicular law, the relationship between substance abuse and operating a motor vehicle, emergency driving techniques, insurance and financial responsibility
- e) The educator has the ability to recognize impairment as the result of substance misuse or otherwise.
- f) An area of the behavioral sciences such as educational psychology, adolescent psychology, or human development

2. Performance Standards - Specifically, the educator:

- a) Educates students with the goal to develop positive attitude toward safe driving with special emphasis on having students understand the serious responsibilities associated with safely operating a motor vehicle
- b) Educates students with the goal to develop the necessary visual, vehicle control, space management and risk prevention skills to drive safely
- c) Plans, organizes, implements, and evaluates a driver and traffic safety education program, including procuring vehicles, performing the necessary recordkeeping, and carrying out other administrative duties associated with driver education
- d) At all times, models for students a high level of self-driving performance
- e) Maintains effective public relations with the community, including remaining aware of community needs and making the community aware of the need for driver education

3. A driver education endorsement limited to behind-the-wheel instruction only shall be issued to individuals who meet Knowledge Standards 1,2 and 4 and Performance Standards 1, 2 and 4, as well as the Additional Requirements below.

**Additional Requirements:** Possess a valid Vermont Motor Vehicles Operator's license, or a valid operator's license from an adjacent state provided the person is a legal resident of that state, with at least five years of driving experience. Provide a certified Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) copy of the applicant's driver's license history.

Provide evidence of a model driving safety record defined as:

- a) no more than one moving traffic conviction in the preceding one year period
- b) no more than three moving traffic convictions in the preceding three years
- c) no alcohol or drug related traffic convictions within the preceding ten years
- d) no driver's license suspension, cancellation, revocation, or denial within the preceding ten years

Possible Options for Discussion:

**Option 1(Currently):** An applicant for Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement (30), or an educator who holds a Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement (for both In-Vehicle and Classroom Instruction) need to hold a bachelor's degree.

**Option 2(Discussion):** An applicant for Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement (30), (Classroom Instruction portion only) or an educator who holds a Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement, for (Classroom Instruction only) need to hold a bachelor's degree.

An applicant for Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement (30), (In-vehicle portion only) or an educator who holds a Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement, for (In-vehicle only) need to hold at a minimum a high school diploma, GED or an Associate's Degree, or the equivalent.

With Option 2 schools could have two separate instructors one for in class instruction and one for In-Vehicle Instruction.

Currently the endorsement requires 18 credits. In order to get credit for either portion the individual would have to take and pass the required courses with a B or better. Courses now offered through Keene State College.

In-Vehicle courses (9 credits)

- Introduction to Traffic Safety
- In-Vehicle Driver Education Methods
- Zone Control

In Classroom Instruction (9 credits)

- Driver Education Classroom Methods
- Special Education in the School
- Learning Styles –Teaching Styles

**Applicants for (30) Driver and Traffic Safety Education (In-Vehicle) shall be exempt from the Praxis Core testing requirements for initial licensure:**

**Applicants for: Drivers Education (In-Vehicle), endorsement need not meet the requirements of (student teaching and administrative internship) and (core teaching standards).**

**Educators who wish to add any additional endorsement or receive the FULL Driver's Education endorsement has to provide documentation of having met the Core Teaching Standards for Vermont Educators with general education coursework AND the required 13 consecutive weeks of Student Teaching or an equivalent experience.**

## **NH Driver Education Instructor Preparation Program**

### **Provisional Certification**

**Requires application and acceptance into the program**

**Motor vehicle and criminal records check prior to registering for the first course.**

**Driver's license possession for five consecutive years**

**A high school diploma or GED**

**Acceptable driving record**

**Course requirements for Provisional Certification:**

- **Introduction to Traffic Safety**
- **Driver Education Classroom Methods**
- **In-Vehicle Driver Education Methods**

### **Standard Certification**

**Requirements must be completed within two years of receiving a Provisional Certification**

**Course requirements for Standard Certification:**

- **Alcohol, Drugs and Driving**
- **Adolescent Growth and Development**
- **Special Education in the Schools**
- **Learning Styles/Teacher Styles**
- **Zone Control**

**24 total credits, however individual does not need to have a bachelor's Degree**

**All courses are taught partially on – line**

## **Maine Requirements**

To apply for a driver education instructor license, you must complete an application form and meet the following requirements:

1. Be at least 22 years of age.
2. Submit proof of a high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Have at least six (6) years experience as a licensed driver and hold a valid driver's license.
4. Must not have any physical, emotional or mental impairment which would prevent driver licensure in accordance with Chapter 3, Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Rules Governing the Physical Emotional and Mental Competence to Operate a Motor Vehicle.
5. Have no convictions or adjudication for moving criminal traffic offenses within the last six (6) years, except for operating without a license if the license was expired less than five (5) years and operating with an expired registration. If you hold an out of state driver's license, a certified copy of the persons driving record and proof of licensure from any state in which a license was held in the preceding six years must be provided with the instructor application.
6. Have not had a driver's license suspended or revoked within the last six (6) years.
7. Has not been an accident-prone driver within last year from date of application.
8. Pass an instructor test administered by the Secretary of State, consisting of knowledge, vision and instructor road test in a representative vehicle.
9. Have not been convicted for any Class A, B or C crime or felony within the last ten (10) years. A person is disqualified from licensing as an instructor or school owner if convicted.
10. Have successfully completed a first aid course approved by the Secretary of State within the preceding three years and the completion card for this course must be valid upon application.
11. Have successfully completed a driving dynamics or defensive driving course approved by the Secretary of State within the preceding year.
12. Submit a license fee of \$100.00, a \$10.00 instructor test fee plus a \$21.00 fee for the criminal background check. (Total \$131.00 for Class C vehicles)
13. Submit a license fee of \$100.00, a \$35.00 instructor test fee plus a \$21.00 fee for the criminal background check. (Total \$156.00 for Class A & B vehicles)

### **Additional Application Requirements for a Class A License (Class C Vehicles)**

If applying for a Class A driver education instructor license in Class C Vehicles, you must submit proof of successful completion of an introductory course in driver education completed within the preceding three (3) years:

1. Introductory course in driver education instruction for Class A instructors which includes peer teaching, curriculum delivery, harassment prevention and teaching special needs students. This course must be approved by the Secretary of State.

### **Additional Application Requirements for a Class B License (Class C Vehicles)**

If applying for a Class B driver education instructor license in Class C Vehicles, you must submit proof of successful completion of an introductory course in driver education completed within the preceding three (3) years:

1. Introductory course in driver education instruction for Class B instructors must be based on the approved curriculum, include harassment prevention training, provide a minimum of eight hours of instruction and include behind-the-wheel training. This course must be approved by the Secretary of State.