

## 10th GRADE HANDOUT - DRIVER EDUCATION

The enclosed paperwork gives some information about an alternative course to taking the 36 hour class needed to fulfill the Commonwealth of Virginia's requirement for Driver Education. This option is VADETS-Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety. This is an online course that can be done by the student. I have had several students who chose this course of action, and they all agreed that the course was beneficial. Also, there are several private driving schools in the area that offer the classroom course. When the classroom portion has been completed successfully, a DEC-1 card is given to the student.

The following is needed before the Behind the Wheel portion of Driver Education can be completed:

A Virginia Learner's Permit

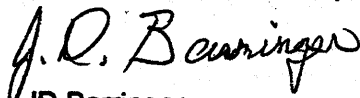
The DEC-1 Card which shows completion of the 36 hour classroom portion

A completed contract (Between the driving school/Parent/Student)

A 45 hour driving log which shows that 45 hours have been driven by the student-of which 15 hours were driven at night). A sign off signature of the 45 hours completion is required when the student is given a Temporary Driving License by the Behind the Wheel instructor. ( Most students have been given 200 hours or more of driving time.)

I have a website: [barringersdrivingschool.com](http://barringersdrivingschool.com), which gives more information on the requirements. I have also made available on the website a playlist that has video clips of different driving procedures, which is helpful to students to see a demonstration before doing the task. If you have a question, I'd be glad to try to answer it, or if I can be of assistance in providing the instruction of the Behind the Wheel portion, I would count it a privilege to work with your student. Driving is not a right given, but a privilege.

Always Drive Defensively,

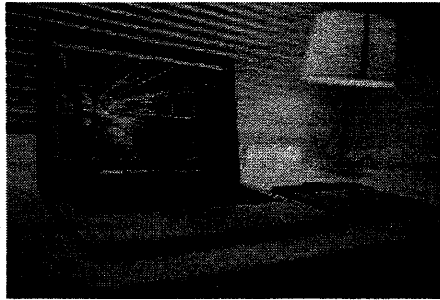


JD Barringer

Owner-BARRINGER's DRIVING SCHOOL LLC



## **Virginia Driver Education and Traffic Safety Course**



**The goal of driver education is to transfer traffic safety knowledge and skills into injury prevention behaviors. Successful completion of a state-approved driver education program does not, in itself, make a teenager a responsible, experienced driver. The ability to move a car skillfully is not the same thing as the ability to drive safely. Driving is a complex psychomotor task requiring mastery of various performance skills. It requires identifying, processing and accurately evaluating risks in the driving environment, developing appropriate responses to minimize these risks, and gaining experience to predict what actions others may take. Statistically, teen drivers have a disproportionately high percentage of vehicle crashes. The commonly cited theories to explain this age group's high crash rate are: immaturity, lack of experience, attitude, and a perception of immortality. The family, not the school, is in the best position to have a sustained effect on minimizing the risks faced by inexperienced drivers and encouraging responsible behaviors. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on extended supervised practice with a licensed parent or guardian to develop precision in the application of skills and processes to effectively manage risks.**

# VADETS

## ONLINE CLASSROOM DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE

The Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety (VADETS) has developed an online classroom driver education course. This online course mirrors the content of the Curriculum Guide for Driver Education in Virginia and is designed to serve as an alternative classroom driver education course for home school and some private school and public school students.

This course is not intended to replace the driver education unit of study taught in HPE-10. Students need to understand that if they are older ninth graders and have taken and successfully completed the online course, they will still need to take the HPE-10 driver education course to earn the HPE credit of a Virginia high school diploma.

The cost of the online course is \$109. The class is monitored by Virginia licensed driver education teachers. Upon successful completion of the course, you will receive a classroom completion certificate (DEC-1). This certificate will allow you to enroll in a public, private or commercial school behind-the-wheel driver education program.

For more information about the VADETS online course or to register for the VADETS online course, please visit their web site at [www.vadriveredu.org](http://www.vadriveredu.org). Read all instructions carefully to help guide you through the registration process.

No private, home school, or public school students may register for this course without prior approval from your parents and the school principal. Parents approved to home school may register their children for the course. Eighteen year olds do not require school or parent permission to enroll. Students are eligible if they:

- have failed classroom driver education;
- have transferred from another school and need classroom driver education;
- have no endorsed driver education teacher in their school;
- take driver education as an elective in their school;
- are homebound;
- are old enough to get a permit but are not in the 10th grade; and
- are home-schooled.

There are separate permission forms for home school, private school and public school students. Click on the "Account Registration" link at the top of the online course home page and then click on the "I Agree" button at the bottom of this page. The permission forms are located at the bottom of the student registration form. You can download the forms without filling in the student registration section if you wish.

To be eligible for a 180-Day Temporary Provisional Driver's License, you will not only need to successfully complete this course but you will also have to:

- complete an in-car course and pass a road skills evaluation;
- be at least 16 years and 3 months old;
- hold your learner's permit for 9 months; and
- drive 45 hours with a parent or guardian (15 of which must be after sunset).

A 45-hour parent/teen driving guide was developed by the Virginia Department of Education to help your parents with this very important task. If you are unable to obtain a 45-hour parent/teen guide at your school and you would like your teacher to mail you a copy, e-mail your teacher and let him/her know.

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To obtain a copy of the 45 hour teen/parent guide, go to the Virginia DMV website: [www.dmv.virginia](http://www.dmv.virginia). Select "Highway Safety" on the blue selection bar which runs horizontally near the top of the page; next, under the heading "Highway Safety", under "Safety Programs", select "Teen Driver Safety". Next, in the middle of the screen near the bottom of the page, select "Teen Driver Safety Resources". Next, select "Related Links and Parent Resources". In the middle of the page, under "Resources for Parents and Teens", select "Parent/Teen Driving Guide-Virginia Department of Education". You will then see a pop-up screen disclaimer; select "Parent/Teen Driving Guide-Virginia Department of Education". This will enable you to view/print the 52 page booklet. This booklet/worksheets is used as the student textbook for Driver Education for the 10th grade, in public and private schools.

## Safety Belt Law

Under Virginia law, the drivers and all front seat passengers must wear safety belts. A driver transporting anyone younger than age 18 must ensure that the passenger is properly secured in a safety belt, booster seat or child safety seat no matter where the child is seated in the vehicle.

## Texting Law

Text-messaging or reading text messages while driving are prohibited.

## Sanctions

- ▶ **Texting while driving convictions** are assessed three demerit points.
- ▶ **If your teen is under the age of 18 and has ten or more unapproved absences from school** on consecutive school days, a court may suspend his or her driving privilege for any period of time, or until he or she reaches the age of 18.
- ▶ **A second or subsequent conviction for a violation of the passenger, curfew or cell phone/wireless communication device restrictions** may result in a court suspension of your teen's driver's license for up to six months.
- ▶ **If your teen receives a conviction for a demerit point, safety belt and/or child restraint violation** committed while under the age of 20, DMV will require him or her to attend a driver-improvement clinic.
- ▶ **If your teen receives a second conviction for an offense committed while under age 18**, DMV will suspend his or her driving privilege for 90 days. If your teen has no other means of transportation, he or she may petition the juvenile and domestic relations court in his or her jurisdiction for restricted driving privileges to drive between home, work, and/or an institution of higher learning.
- ▶ **After the third demerit point conviction for an offense committed while under age 18**, DMV will revoke your teen's driving privilege for one year or until he or she reaches age 18, whichever is longer. No restricted driving privileges will be granted during this time.

## Zero Tolerance

If your teen is under age 21, he or she cannot purchase, possess or consume alcohol. It is illegal for any person under the age of 21 to operate any motor vehicle after illegally consuming alcohol. If your teen is convicted of driving after illegally consuming alcohol and was found to have a BAC of 0.02 and less than 0.08, the court penalty will include a suspension of his or her driving privilege for one year from the date of conviction, and a minimum mandatory fine of \$500, or the requirement that he or she complete at least 50 hours of community service.

## Learner's Permit

If your teen wants to go driving with his or her learner's permit, there must be a licensed driver at least 21 years of age seated next to him or her at all times. The driver accompanying your teen must be legally permitted to drive and be alert to assist your teen.

There are exceptions. The driver supervising your teen's driving may be as young as 18 years of age if he or she is your teen's brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or first cousin.

Of course, the person accompanying your teen must not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The in-car driver education teacher will administer your teen's final road test. If your teen successfully passes the test, the school will issue him or her a completion certificate. The certificate, combined with your teen's learner's permit, acts as a valid driver's license for 180 days.

## Court Licensing Ceremony

If your teen is under age 18 when he or she meets the requirement for DMV to issue a driver's license, DMV will mail his or her driver's license to the juvenile and domestic relations court in his or her jurisdiction. Within the 180 day period, you and

your teen will receive a notice from the juvenile and domestic relations court that will tell you when to appear in court for a licensing ceremony. During this ceremony your teen will receive his or her driver's license.

If your teen is age 18 or older on the date of the ceremony, you are not required to attend the ceremony with him or her.

If your teen is age 18 or older when he or she meets the requirements for DMV to issue his or her driver's license, DMV will mail the license directly to your teen. Your teen will not be required to attend a juvenile licensing ceremony.

If your teen held a valid driver's license issued by another state and exchanged it for a Virginia driver's license, he or she will not be required to attend a juvenile licensing ceremony.

## Stay Involved

Take an active role in the first years of your teen's driving. After your teen is licensed, don't opt out—continue to monitor his or her driving behavior. Your involvement may save a life.

# Parents *in the Driver's Seat*

Now that your teen has a learner's permit, you have rights and responsibilities that can minimize the risks he or she will face on the road.



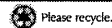
**Driving  
is not a right  
for teens.  
It's a privilege  
parents grant  
to teens.**



**DMV**  
www.dmvNow.com

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles  
P.O. Box 27412  
Richmond, Virginia 23269-0001  
(804) 497-7100

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Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

## The Leading Cause of Death

Driving is a complex task, even for most seasoned drivers. For young drivers, driving is especially difficult and can be lethal. In fact, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for persons between the ages of 15 and 20. That's why it's important for you to be involved in the first years of your teen's driving. This can be a rewarding experience for you and your teen that will help minimize the risks he or she will face on the road.

As your teen's parent or guardian, you know when he or she has the skills and maturity to drive. That's why your permission is required at many steps in the juvenile licensing process. That's why you have the right to withhold or cancel your teen's driving privileges.

## Rights and Responsibilities

With your permission, your teen now has a learner's permit. This means that you now have rights and responsibilities that will involve you in your teen's driving experience.

### Your Rights

- ▶ You have already exercised your first right – you gave DMV permission to issue your teen a learner's permit and, eventually, a driver's license.
- ▶ You also have the right to grant or not grant your teen's school permission to enroll him or her in the in-car phase of driver education.
- ▶ Until your teen turns age 18, you have the right to cancel his or her driver's license for any reason you deem appropriate. If you choose to cancel your teen's driver's license, complete the "Cancellation of a Minor's Driver's License" form (DL 18). The form is available on the DMV website at [www.dmvNOW.com](http://www.dmvNOW.com) or contact DMV at (804) 497-7100. But remember, you and your teen will not be able to reapply for a driver's license for at least six months.



### Your Responsibilities

Before your teen can get a driver's license, you must certify that he or she has 45 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, 15 hours of which must be after sunset. This requirement applies only if your teen is under age 18. The driver's education/training completion certificate must include your signature and driver's license or identification card number.

To help you meet this requirement, your teen will bring home a publication from his or her driver education class or from DMV when the learner's permit is issued. Created by the Department of Education, the 45-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide provides:

- ▶ suggested in-car guided practice sessions
- ▶ helpful tips on how to coach your teen during the guided practice sessions
- ▶ a detailed explanation of the fundamentals of driving
- ▶ a 45-hour driving log that you complete and give to your teen's driver education instructor
- ▶ a sound groundwork to foster responsible attitudes and driving behaviors in your teen

The guide is also available online at [www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/driver\\_education/parent\\_teen\\_driving\\_guide.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/driver_education/parent_teen_driving_guide.pdf).

## Licensing Requirements and Restrictions

### Learner's Permit

**Age of applicant** – Your teen must be at least 15 years, six months of age before he or she can apply for a learner's permit.

**Testing** – Successful completion of the two-part knowledge test is required to obtain a learner's permit. If your teen fails the knowledge test three times, completion of the classroom component of driver's education or training will be required before he or she is allowed to take the knowledge test a fourth time.

**Passenger limits** – While driving with a learner's permit, your teen may not carry more than one passenger under age 21. (This does not apply to family members.)

**Curfew** – While driving with a learner's permit, your teen may not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m.

### Driver's License

**Age of applicant** – Your teen must be at least 16 years, 3 months of age and have held his or her learner's permit for at least nine months before he or she can apply for a driver's license.

#### Passenger limits

If your teen is under age 18, he or she may carry only one passenger under age 21, unless accompanied by a licensed parent, or other adult acting in place of a parent, in the front passenger seat; however, after he or she has held a license for one year, your teen may carry up to three passengers under age 21 in the following situations:

- ▶ travel to and from a school-sponsored activity
- ▶ there is a licensed driver 21 or older in the front passenger seat or
- ▶ there is an emergency.

(Passenger restrictions do not apply to members of the driver's family or household.)

**Curfew** – If your teen is under age 18, he or she may not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m. except:

- ▶ in cases of an emergency, including when responding to an emergency call as a volunteer firefighter or rescue squad member
- ▶ when traveling to and from a place of business where he/she is employed
- ▶ when traveling to or from an activity that is supervised by an adult and is sponsored by a school or civic, religious, or public organization
- ▶ when accompanied by a parent or other adult acting in place of a parent or by a spouse who is at least 18 years old, in the front passenger seat.

**Cell phones** – If your teen is under age 18, he or she may not operate a motor vehicle while using any cellular telephone or any other wireless telecommunication devices, regardless if it is a hands-free device, unless in a driver emergency or when the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped.

The passenger limits, curfew and cell phone restrictions under this section are lifted on the driver's license holder's eighteenth birthday.

## Driver Education Requirements

If your teen is under age 18, he or she must complete a state-approved driver education program. The program must present 36 classroom periods. The student can complete the classroom portion of the course at a driver training school, a public or private school, or through a DMV-approved online course provider. It must also include 14 in-car instruction periods, seven periods of driving, and seven periods of observation. The student can complete the in-car instruction periods at a Virginia public or private driver training school unless your teen is home-schooled.\*

**Transferring from another state** – Your teen's out-of-state driver's education may be accepted if it was successfully completed while residing in that state and the program meets a minimum of 30 classroom hours and six in-car hours.

If your teen holds a current out-of-state driver's license but does not have proof of driver's education, he or she may be issued a Virginia six-month temporary license. This will give your teen time to obtain proof or to complete a state-approved driver education program.

\* Information about home-schooled in-car instruction requirements is online at <http://www.dmv.state.va.us/drivers/#homeschoolers.asp>.