

Parent/Guardian Curriculum

2006 V1

Appendix C

Introduction

A new requirement of driver's education will be at least a two hour class for parents/guardians. The intention of this class is to educate parents/guardians about the content of the driver education curriculum, the junior operator's law and the driving skills and behaviors that their children will be learning. It is important for parents/guardians to know the skills and behaviors that they should be modeling while driving so that they can coach and mentor their children to be safe and skilled drivers.

Objectives

By the end of the class, parents should be able to:

- ✓ Explain the junior operator's law and the parent/guardian's role in supporting the law
- ✓ List the driving skills their child must master to pass a road test
- ✓ Identify the driver's education modules and the relevance to developing good driving skills
- ✓ Provide examples of family member driving behaviors which may negatively influence a new driver

Topic Outline

I. Driver's Education Overview

Purpose and class structure

Expectations

Curriculum modules

II. Junior Operator's Law

III. Necessary Driving Skills and Behaviors

IV. Parent's Role

Coaching and mentoring

Supporting junior operator law

Role model

Executive Office of Public Safety at the following toll-free number: **1-866-6RACIAL** (1-866-672-2425), or by contacting the police department of the officer who made the stop.

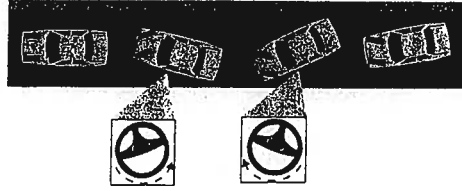
Driving Emergencies

In any emergency driving situation, it is very important that you think clearly and don't panic. In most emergency situations, you have only a short time to react. Read this section to learn what to do when an emergency occurs. It could save a life.

Skidding

The technique for handling a skid is the same for front- and rear-wheel drive vehicles:

- Ease off the gas, and shift into neutral.
- Don't hit the brakes. You will make the skid worse.
- Turn your steering wheel in the **direction of the skid**. If your rear tires are skidding to the left, turn your steering wheel left. If they are sliding right, steer right.
- Be prepared to steer left and right a few times until you get your car completely under control.



Running Off the Pavement

If you drive off the pavement edge and onto the shoulder of the road...

- Grip the steering wheel tightly and ease your foot off the gas pedal.
- Gently apply the brake to reduce your speed.
- Check for traffic behind you, then steer gently back onto the road.

Flat Tire, Blowout, or Wheel Loss

If while driving, you get a flat tire, your tire blows out, or you lose a wheel...

- Grip the steering wheel tightly and ease your foot off the gas pedal.
- Gently apply the brakes.
- If you begin to skid, turn the steering wheel in the **direction of the skid**.
- As you recover, gently straighten the car and don't use the brake until you have the vehicle under control.
- Pull your car well off the road as soon as it is safe to do so.

Brake Failure

If your brake pedal is fully depressed but the brakes fail to respond...

- Pump the brake pedal several times rapidly to build up brake fluid pressure, but **do not pump antilock brakes**.
- Downshift to a lower gear, and work your way down to the lowest gear, if necessary.

- Apply the parking brake gently, but hold the brake release in case your vehicle starts to skid.

- If you cannot slow your vehicle, sound your horn and flash your lights to warn drivers or pedestrians around you.

Stuck Gas Pedal

If your gas pedal (accelerator) sticks...

- Put your car in neutral and apply the brakes to slow down.
- Using your foot, try to free the gas pedal.
- If the gas pedal doesn't release, reapply the brakes.
- Keep your eyes on the road.
- When safe to do so, pull your vehicle to the side of the road and bring it to a stop.

Vehicle Approaching Head On

If a vehicle approaches you head on in your lane...

- Slow down and pull to the right.
- Sound your horn to alert the other driver.

Headlight Failure

If your headlights suddenly go out...

- Turn on your parking lights, emergency flashers, or turn signal.
- Try the headlight switch a few times.
- Pull off the road as quickly as possible and leave your emergency flashers on.

Stalling on Railroad Tracks

If your vehicle stalls on railroad tracks and you know a train is approaching...

- Get yourself and any passengers out of your vehicle and off the tracks, and move as far from the tracks as you can. Try to signal the train any way you safely can.
- To avoid being hit by debris, run from your vehicle in the direction the train is coming from.

If your vehicle stalls on railroad tracks and you are not sure whether a train is approaching...

- Roll down your window or open your door and listen for an approaching train.
- Try to start your engine.
- If your vehicle won't start, shift to neutral and try to push the vehicle off the tracks.
- If you cannot move your vehicle from the tracks, call the police immediately to report the situation.

If your car stalls on a crossing for any reason, contact the local or state police as quickly as possible and ask them to call the railroad station manager. The police may be able to notify an approaching train before a collision.

Road test fee - \$20.00

The RMV charges a flat fee for any license application. This fee covers the cost of processing your application and scheduling a road test. If you fail the road test, do not appear for the road test, are rejected by the examiner, or cancel your appointment with less than 24 hours notice, you will still be charged the \$20 fee. For more details on road testing, see the *Taking the Road Test* section later in this chapter.

License issue fee Class D - \$40.00

License issue fee Class M - \$40.00

The RMV charges a driver's license fee so it can issue a tamper-resistant, Class D or Class M license that features your photo-image, your signature, and a magnetic code stripe and/or bar code.

Amending an existing license - \$15.00

The RMV charges a fee when you add or change a restriction. Any other change that results in the reissuance of a license will be charged a duplicate license fee of \$20.

Out-of-state conversion fees

Class A* - \$125.00

Class B* - \$125.00

Class C* - \$125.00

Class D* - \$90.00

*To add motorcycle privileges (Class M) to any of these license classes, you must pay an additional \$15.00.

Class M only - \$90.00

Class D or M permit conversion - \$30.00

Massachusetts ID issue fee - \$25.00

If you have surrendered your license voluntarily, there is no fee for a Massachusetts ID (See the *Surrendering Your License* section of this chapter for more information).

Liquor ID issue fee - \$25.00

The Junior Operator License Law

Any motor vehicle operator or motorcyclist between the ages of 16 1/2 and 18 is considered a Junior Operator. The Junior Operator Law has several requirements and restrictions that significantly affect the operation of a motor vehicle by a person who has a Junior Operator's License (JOL). The basic purpose of the law is to provide new drivers supervised opportunities in which to develop good driving skills, while keeping those drivers free of the possible distractions caused by friends under age 18 who are present while the drivers are behind the wheel.

JOL applications and permits were signed into law on September 1, 2007. The law requires additional provisions for safety training, education, and testing of applicants.

Requirements to Obtain a JOL

An applicant for a driver's license between ages 16 1/2 and 18 must comply with several requirements to obtain a JOL:

- Have a valid learner's permit for at least six consecutive months before taking the road test. (Any suspension will invalidate the permit and the six months will start to run anew when the suspension is lifted.)
- Maintain a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months before taking the road test.
- Successfully complete a Registrar-approved driver education and training program, which includes 30 hours of classroom instruction; six hours of in-car, behind-the-wheel training; and six hours of in-car experience observing other student drivers.
- Complete at least an additional 12 hours of supervised, behind-the-wheel driving as shown by a certified statement provided by a parent or guardian.

Note: If your permit was issued on or after September 1, 2007, you must meet the following requirements to obtain a license.

- Driver education must consist of 30 hours classroom instruction, 12 hours of in-car, behind-the-wheel training, and six hours of in-car experience observing other student drivers.
- You must complete at least an additional 40 hours of supervised, behind-the-wheel driving as shown by a certified statement provided by a parent or guardian. The RMV will accept 30 hours of driving supervised by a parent or guardian if the applicant completed a driver skills development program.
- Your parent or guardian must participate in two hours of instruction on the driver's education curriculum (unless they have participated within the past five years).
- You must pass a final exam to have a driver's education certificate electronically filed with the RMV.

JOL License Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to all Junior Operators:

- You may not operate a motor vehicle within the first six months after receiving your JOL while any person **under age 18** is in the vehicle (other than you or an immediate family member), unless you are accompanied by a person who is at least 21 years old, has at least one year of driving experience, holds a valid driver's license from Massachusetts or another state, and is occupying a seat beside you.

General Rule: The passenger restriction that applies to you as a JOL holder under age 18 is lifted once you complete the six-month period (or the portion that applies to you) or you reach age 18, whichever occurs first.

The six-month passenger restriction period will stop running, temporarily, during any suspension. When your JOL is reinstated, you will still have to complete the remainder of the six-month restriction period that existed at the beginning of the suspension period, unless you have already turned 18.

Some offenses, such as driving while intoxicated, are subject to a suspension of driving privileges and may subject you to a suspension of driving privileges.

- As the holder of a JOL, you may not operate a motor vehicle between 12:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. unless you are accompanied by one of your parents or your legal guardian. If you are found operating a motor vehicle in violation of this restriction, you may be charged with operating a motor vehicle without being licensed. This is a criminal violation.
Note: The law states that between 12:30 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. and between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., the provisions of the law shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies only when a Junior Operator of a motor vehicle has been lawfully stopped for a violation of the motor vehicle laws or some other offense. This is called "secondary enforcement." However, it is still illegal for you to operate during those times without a parent present in the car.
- If you violate the passenger restriction or the night restriction, you will be subject to a license suspension of 60 days for a first offense, 180 days for a second offense, and one year for subsequent offenses. For a second or subsequent offense, you will also be required to complete a Driver Attitudinal Retraining course. The law requires the Registrar to impose this suspension in addition to any other penalty, fine, suspension, revocation, or requirement that may be imposed in connection with a violation committed at the time you were violating the passenger or night restriction.
- You may not operate a motor vehicle that requires a **commercial driver's license** (CDL).
- You will be suspended for one year if you are under 18 when you have committed certain driving offenses and alcohol or drugs were involved (180 days if age 18 to 21), **in addition to any penalty assessed by a court or other law.** (For details, see the *License Suspension or Revocation* section of Chapter Two.)
- You will be ineligible for a full license until you have completed the period of suspension imposed while operating with a JOL and you reach age 18.
- You will face additional suspension periods of one year for a first drag racing offense and three years for a subsequent offense. For a first speeding offense, you will be suspended for 90 days; for a subsequent offense, you will be suspended for one year.

Applying for a License

You must obtain a learner's permit before you can apply for any license (This manual specifically outlines the procedures for obtaining a Class D or a Class M license). To get a learner's permit, you must complete an application, present identification, pay a fee, pass a vision exam, and pass a knowledge test. Your learner's permit does not become a license until you pass the road test and have paid all license fees. If your learner's permit expires, you must re-take the knowledge test and pay the required fees.

Currently, you can opt to pay the knowledge test, road test, and license fees when you take the knowledge test. If you choose not to pay all the fees at that time, you can pay the remaining fees when you book your road test. If you are a new Massachusetts resident and have an out-of-state driver's license, you may be eligible to convert your license without testing. For information on license conversion and foreign license policies, see the section *Converting Your License*.

Getting a Learner's Permit

You must be at least 16 years old to apply for a Class D or Class M learner's permit. The knowledge test that you must take tests your understanding of Massachusetts motor vehicle laws and safe driving practices. A learner's permit gives you permission to drive while you practice your driving skills and prepare for your road test. A permit is valid for two years.

When applying for a permit, you may wish to prepay your license and road test fees. If you have already been granted your driver's license, it will be automatically sent to your e-mail. You will not be charged an initial fee when you pass the road test.

To earn your permit, take the following steps:

1. Study all of the information contained in this manual.
 2. Complete a learner's permit application and submit it to any full-service RMV Branch. Applications are available at all Branch and License Express sites, and on our website, www.mass.gov/rmv. If you are under 18, you must have your parent or guardian sign your application.
 3. Meet all of the RMV's identification requirements (see the *Identification Requirements* section).
- Note:** You must meet these requirements **every** time you take the knowledge test.
4. Pay a \$30 knowledge test fee, which covers the cost of your test.
 5. Have your photo-image and signature captured electronically.
 6. Pass a vision test at the RMV Branch or submit an RMV vision screening certificate from your medical practitioner.
 7. Pass a knowledge test based on information in this manual.

Knowledge tests are offered only on a walk-in basis when you submit your application for a learner's permit. You cannot schedule your knowledge test in advance.

A learner's permit is a document that grants conditional driving privileges. This document is issued intended to be used as an identification document for travel. This means that it will not be accepted by most airlines, cruise ships, etc., to travel at a state-issued photo ID.

Knowledge Test Procedures

Each knowledge test has 25 multiple-choice questions. To pass the test, you must answer 18 questions correctly within the allotted time of 25 minutes.

Full-service RMV Branches have automated testing stations (ATS), which are easy-to-use videoscreen kiosks that use a computer program to deliver knowledge test questions visually. The knowledge test is available in both English and Spanish (for a Class D or M

**Mandatory Permit Suspensions
Junior Operators Only (16½ to 18 Years)**

Violation	Suspension Period	Reinstatement Requirements	Fee to Reinstatement
Conviction for Driving Without a Licensed Driver (c. 90, §8B)	60 days—first offense 180 days—second offense One year—subsequent offenses	All offenses require you to retake the knowledge exam. Second offense requires a Driver Attitudinal Retraining course.	\$100
Conviction for Driving During the Night Restriction (c. 90, §10) (c. 90, §8B)	60 days—first offense 180 days—second offense One year—subsequent offenses	All offenses require you to retake the knowledge exam. Second offense requires a Driver Attitudinal Retraining course.	\$100
Conviction for Speeding (c. 90, §17) (c. 90, §17A) (c. 90, §18)	90 days—first offense One year—second or subsequent offense	All offenses require a new knowledge test.	\$100
Conviction for Drag Racing (c. 90, §17B)	One year—first offense Three years—second or subsequent offense	All offenses require a Driver Attitudinal Retraining course, and you may be required to take a State Courts Against Road Rage (SCARR) course.*	\$500—first offense \$1000—second or subsequent offense

Note: In addition to any other penalty required by law, Massachusetts General Laws chapter 90, section 24p requires that any Junior Operator who is convicted of Operating Under the Influence (OUI), Operating to Endanger, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, Drinking from an Open Alcohol Container, OUI with Serious Bodily Injury, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Reckless/Negligent Operation, Loaning/Allowing Another to Use Your License or Learner's Permit, or Motor Vehicle Homicide will face a 180 day suspension (in addition to any other suspension required by law) for a first offense, or a one year suspension for any subsequent offense. This additional suspension only applies to Junior Operators, and only in cases in which they did not already receive an additional suspension for failing or refusing a breath test.

Note: In addition to any other penalty required by law, Massachusetts General Laws chapter 90, section 24p requires that any Junior Operator who is convicted of Operating Under the Influence (OUI), Operating to Endanger, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, Drinking from an Open Alcohol Container, OUI with Serious Bodily Injury, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Reckless/Negligent Operation, Loaning/Allowing Another to Use Your License or Learner's Permit, or Motor Vehicle Homicide will face a 180 day suspension (in addition to any other suspension required by law) for a first offense, or a one year suspension for any subsequent offense. This additional suspension only applies to Junior Operators, and only in cases in which they did not already receive an additional suspension for failing or refusing a breath test.

**Mandatory License Suspensions
Junior Operators Only (16½ to 18 Years)**

Violation	Suspension Period	Reinstatement Requirements	Fee to Reinstatement
Conviction for Violating Passenger or Night Restriction (c. 90, §8) (c. 90, §10)	60 days—first offense 180 days—second offense One year—subsequent offenses	Second and subsequent offenses require a Driver Attitudinal Retraining course. Third and subsequent offenses require a new knowledge and road exam.	\$400
Conviction for Speeding (c. 90, §17) (c. 90, §17A) (c. 90, §18)	90 days—first offense One year—second or subsequent offense	All offenses require a Driver Attitudinal Retraining course, a new knowledge test, and a new road test. In addition, you may be required to take a State Courts Against Road Rage (SCARR) course.*	\$500
Conviction for Drag Racing (c. 90, §17B)	One year—first offense Three years—second or subsequent offense	All offenses require a Driver Attitudinal Retraining course, a new knowledge test, and a new road test. In addition, you may be required to take a State Courts Against Road Rage (SCARR) course.*	\$500—first offense \$1000—second or subsequent offense
Conviction for Driving Negligently or Recklessly/ Operating to Endanger (c. 90, §24)	180 days—first offense One year—second or subsequent offense (within a three year period)	Second and subsequent offenses require a new knowledge test, and a new road test.	\$500

Note: In addition to any other penalty required by law, Massachusetts General Laws chapter 90, section 24p requires that any Junior Operator who is convicted of Operating Under the Influence (OUI), Operating to Endanger, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, Drinking from an Open Alcohol Container, OUI with Serious Bodily Injury, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Reckless/Negligent Operation, Loaning/Allowing Another to Use Your License or Learner's Permit, or Motor Vehicle Homicide will face a 180 day suspension (in addition to any other suspension required by law) for a first offense, or a one year suspension for any subsequent offense. This additional suspension only applies to Junior Operators, and only in cases in which they did not already receive an additional suspension for failing or refusing a breath test.

* A Junior Operator will only be required to take the SCARR course one time.

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10 things each parent should do to keep teen drivers safe

Advertiser News Services

In conjunction with efforts to strengthen graduated driver licensing efforts across the country and educate teenagers on driver safety, AAA is urging parents of teenage drivers and would-be drivers to improve their teens' safety.

Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for teens.

"Parents can have a tremendous impact on their teens' safety," said Susan Pikrallidas, AAA vice president of public affairs.

AAA created a list of 10 things parents can do to help keep their teen drivers safe all year long.

1. Know and understand your teens. Not all teens are ready to drive at the same age. Teenagers mature, develop emotionally, and become responsible at varying rates, which parents need to gauge as they permit their teens to drive.

2. Be a positive and responsible role model. Teenagers learn from their parents' behavior. Parents' actions behind the wheel influence the driving behavior of their teens. Research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that teens involved in crashes had parents who more often had poor driving records than the parents of collision-free teens.

3. Practice might not make perfect, but it can make for better teen drivers. As an important supplement to formal driver education, supervised driving sessions with parents provide teens with opportunities to enhance learning, reinforce proper driving techniques and skills, and receive



Parents, how do you help your teens focus on safety when driving? Join the discussion at [HAWAII MOMS .com](http://www.hawaiimoms.com)

constructive feedback from the people that care most about their safety and success.

4. Keep teen drivers free of teen passengers and off the road at night. Extensive research indicates that a teen driver's chances of crashing increase with each additional teen passenger. Research shows teen crash rates spike at night and that most nighttime crashes occur between 9 p.m. and midnight.

5. Encourage teens to get enough sleep. Teens need about nine hours of sleep every night, but many teens fall short because of the combination of early-morning school start times and homework, sports, after-school jobs, and other activities. A lack of sleep can negatively affect vision, hand-eye coordination, reaction time and judgment.

6. Eliminate the distractions. Cell phones and text messaging are hazardous distractions for teen drivers. With surveys reporting widespread use of distracting technology by teen drivers, one-third of states have recently banned cell-phone use by new teen drivers. Parents should make it a strict rule in their households, too.

7. Discuss, establish and enforce consequences. Parents should look to state graduated driver licensing programs as the minimum they should be en-

forcing. Parents should establish rules and consequences that they and their teens agree upon that extend beyond state laws. If the teen breaks a family driving rule, consequences should be enforced and the situation should be used as an opportunity for learning and discussion. Conversely, proper driving behavior should be encouraged and rewarded with additional liberties.

8. Create a parent-teen driving contract. Having rules, conditions, restrictions, and consequences of teens' driving written down in explicit and specific details establishes driving as a privilege, and not something to be taken lightly or for granted. AAA offers parent-teen driving agreements at www.aaa.com/publicaffairs.

9. Set a time each week for discussion and review. Parental involvement and communication is critical in the prevention of teen-related crashes, injuries and fatalities. Designate a time each week to address concerns (both parent and teen), review the teen's driving performance, and chart the progression towards established goals and benchmarks.

10. Make smart vehicle choice decisions for teens. As the family member most likely to crash, a teen should drive the safest vehicle the family owns. Things to consider are vehicle type (sedans are generally safer than sports cars, SUVs and pickup trucks) size (larger vehicles fare better in crashes than smaller vehicles), and safety technology (front and side air bags, anti-lock brakes, and stability control systems).