

DRIVER TRAINING

Constitutional and Statutory Provisions:

Sections:

56-23-20.	Certain courses exempt.
56-23-85.	Driver instructor permits required.
59-39-310.	School district boards shall establish driver education and training programs.
59-39-320.	Rules and regulations of State Board of Education.

Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

SECTION 56-23-20. Certain courses exempt.

Classroom courses offered by state institutions and duly accredited and approved colleges, public, parochial and private high schools in which classroom driver education is part of the curriculum or to employers giving instruction to their licensed employees shall be exempt from registration and license under this chapter. Courses offered to adults under adult education programs shall not qualify for the exemption.

SECTION 56-23-85. Driver instructor permits required.

No person connected with driver training schools or private, parochial or public high schools shall engage in behind the wheel training of persons to drive or operate motor vehicles unless such person has obtained and holds a valid driver instructor permit or temporary driver instructor permit therefore issued by the department. Appropriate examination for such instructor permit shall be at the discretion of the department. The annual fee for an instructor permit shall be twenty dollars, and all such instructor permits shall expire on June thirtieth. Public high school instructors shall not be required to pay a fee for a permit.

SECTION 59-39-310. School district boards shall establish driver education and training programs.

The governing board of any school district maintaining a secondary school which includes any grades nine through twelve, inclusive, shall establish driver education and training programs for students in high school grades.

SECTION 59-39-320. Rules and regulations of State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations for establishment by local school districts of approved driver education and training courses, and when duly promulgated shall have full force and effect of law. Such regulations shall require that credit for completion of a driver education training course shall not be given unless the course shall have included not less than thirty

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classroom hours of instruction in driver education, and not less than six hours of actual behind-the wheel driving.

State Board Regulation:

Driver Training

A school program shall include the complete program of driver education, classroom and behind-the-wheel phases, and it shall be provided each semester on an elective basis for eligible students. Schools organized on grades 9-12 or 10-12 basis shall provide this program.

Summer programs of driver education are permissible and recommended but may not be substituted for the regular school year program.

1. The course shall be organized on a semester basis and shall include as a minimum 30 classroom hours of instruction in driver education, 6 hours of actual behind-the-wheel driving, and 6 hours of actual observation. Twelve hours of simulation instruction may replace 3 hours of behind-the-wheel driving.
2. Behind-the-wheel driving refers to actual experiences in road instruction with the student as the driver with the teacher present.

Behind-the-wheel instruction shall include the following:

- a. Actual experience in driving a properly marked automobile. It is required that a dual-control automobile be used.
 - b. A minimum of 6 hours of behind-the-wheel practice driving with a certified driving instructor. Twelve hours of simulation instruction may replace 3 hours of behind-the-wheel driving.
3. The instructional materials shall be selected from the list of state adopted instructional materials list for driver education.
 4. Driver education must be offered at a grade level that complies with Section 8 of the Highway Safety Act (R-521, Act No. 362 of 1965). It is recommended that the course be offered at the grade level where most of the students have or are approaching legal driving age which is the ninth grade. However, the course may be offered in any grade 9-12. The course shall be limited to students whose physical and mental condition gives reasonable promise of being able to pass the requirements of the State Highway Department for a driver's license.

5. The teacher must (a) hold a valid South Carolina teacher's certificate, (b) be certified to teach driver education, (c) have completed successfully a basic and advanced driver and traffic education instructor's course, (d) have a good personal driving record, (e) hold a valid South Carolina driver's license, and (f) hold a valid behind-the-wheel instructor permit.

6. All school districts operating driver education programs must have liability insurance as required by State Law. The Board recommends that medical expense insurance be obtained for drivers and passengers in an amount to be determined by the school district or county.