

CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XVI, Number 2 - June 2006

Driver Education Study Proposed

By Jerry Gaines, CASE Governmental Relations Representative

On May 31, the state Assembly passed **AB 2175** by Assemblywoman Carol Liu, (D)-La Crescenta, **by a vote of 77 yes to 3 no** to ask the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to undertake a study of driver education, complete research on the effectiveness of current practices, and recommend new standards to the Legislature by 2009. The *National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)* testified in the Assembly Transportation Committee in support of the bill, noting its recommendations to revisit how driver education/training is organized in its recent report in August of 2005. Additional support comes from Caltrans where it noted in its recent *Final Draft Strategic Highway Safety Plan* that reducing young driver crashes is one of the three most cost effective strategies the state can implement to improve highway safety.

CASE is currently working with the state automobile clubs and the author to offer amendments to the bill as it moves to the Senate Transportation Committee where the focus will be on the process and design used by the DMV to conduct the research as called for in the proposed legislation. There is a clear national interest as well as a state interest to revisit how driver education is structured (especially minimum standards). What is important is that the study be done in such a way that the findings will result in future reorganization that will benefit the skills and knowledge new teen drivers need to help reduce the death and injury rate for this age group. Assuming the bill will be amended to address process issues, CASE will work to support its passage by the Legislature and encourage the Governor to approve it later this summer.

If the legislation becomes law the DMV will immediately apply for grant funding to help fund the research. The Office of Traffic Safety most likely will oversee National Highway Traffic Safety Administration funds allocated by Congress in the new *Highway Safety Act* to review driver education. A request for proposal will most likely be prepared to solicit a professional research entity to conduct the study. There will be a need to form an advisory panel made up of traffic safety experts to work with the DMV in undertaking the research. Some CASE members may actually be involved in some phase of the study, perhaps in facilitating some model test programs out in the field.

Under the leadership of President John Knippel this past year, CASE has been working on updated standards for driver education. Both the DMV and the California Department of Education (CDE) have been asked by CASE to facilitate a review of 1970's standards that currently exist within the CDE program. This proposed legislation may actually provide a way for this update to become a reality. CASE members will be kept informed of this proposed legislation in future newsletters as well as the CASE website.

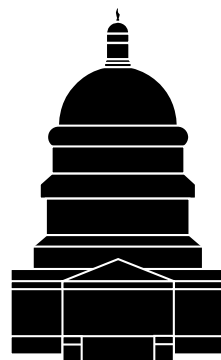
Summary of AB 2175

from www.assembly.ca.gov

SUMMARY : Requires the development of program standards for use in conjunction with graduated driver licensing qualifications.

Specifically, this bill :

- 1) Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to contract with a public or private entity that is an expert in designing and evaluating driver education and crash avoidance driving skills and driving techniques for novice teenage drivers for the purpose of developing program standards for use in conjunction with graduated driver licensing qualifications.
- 2) Specifies that the program standards focus on the most effective driver education and training methods that will reduce novice teenage driver crashes.
- 3) Requires the contracted entity to determine the instructional tools, training methods, and curricula that are consistent with the most effective teaching methodologies likely to result in reduction of crashes, as well as the optimum sequencing for educating teenagers on safe driving skills and techniques, both in driver education and behind-the-wheel instruction.
- 4) Requires the contracted entity to recommend to DMV a method of collecting data on the type of driver training, driver test passing rates, and driving records to establish the on-going evaluation of the effectiveness of drivers training.
- 5) Requires DMV to submit the program standards developed to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2009.



Driver Education Teacher Preparation Courses

Driver Education teacher preparation courses are continuing in the Northern California and Riverside areas.

For information contact Jackie Woodworth at the Fresno County Office of Education (559) 265-3031 or Michelle Sang at UC Riverside School of Extended Education (951) 827-1661.

Even if you have a credential, this is good for salary scale advancement as the units are all graduate credit. You will also learn much in the way of valuable information and techniques.

Ford Offers Driver Education Materials

The Ford Motor Company has established a website that offers free driver education resources for teachers. Visit www.drivingskillsforlife.com and click on the "Educators" tab to order materials including a 30-minute DVD, lesson plans, and other useful items for classroom use. There is also a feature that allows teachers to upload and share lesson plans.

In addition to the resources for educators, the website provides activities for teenagers, including safe driving games and tips to help them improve their behind-the-wheel abilities in hazard recognition, vehicle handling, space management and speed management.

2007 CASE Conference

The CASE Board of Directors has voted to hold our 2007 Conference in the Fresno area. The date is tentatively set for April 13-14, 2007.

We will confirm the date as soon as arrangements have been secured for the conference facility. Watch for the September issue of the CASE Newsletter or check the CASE Website at: casewebsite.org for updated information. A conference registration form will be posted on the website when all details have been finalized.



CASE Calendar

July 5-9, 2006 - National Student Safety Program Conference, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma. Contact: (800) 896-7703 or <http://adtsea.iup.edu/nssp/conference/2006>

July 29-August 3, 2006 - 50th ADTSEA Conference, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Contact: (800) 333-3333 or <http://adtsea.iup.edu/adtsea/conference/2006>

DMV California Teens Web Page

The DMV has a web page especially for teen drivers at www.dmv.ca.gov/teenweb. The page has links to information about the provisional instruction permit, alcohol and drugs, applying for a driver license, sample tests, and more.

Seat Belts: One out of Five "Still Don't Get It"

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that despite the highest safety belt-use rate ever recorded in the U.S., 48 million Americans still fail to buckle up. NHTSA found the last of the unbuckled to be largely young and male, likely to live in rural areas and/or drive pickup trucks.



CASE Election Results

Results of the Spring CASE Election are as follows:

President:	Keith Merrihew
President-Elect:	Shannon Woods
1st Vice President	Barbara Shiffermiller
2nd Vice President	Trina Bega
South Region Rep.	Larry Woodruff
North Region Rep.	Larry Terrill

CASE Newsletter

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Driver Education Frequently Asked Questions

reprinted from the California Department of Education website: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/dr/drvedufaqs.asp

Driver Education

1.. **What are the relevant Education Code sections pertaining to Driver Education and how may I access them?**

The key Education Code sections are 51220(j), 51220.1, and 51850-51854. These sections may be accessed at www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html

2. **Is Driver Education required to be offered by school districts?**

Yes. Education Code Section 51220(j) states in part that: “The adopted course of study for grades 7-12, inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study . . . (j) Automobile driver education.”

3. **Is Driver Education required for high school graduation?**

While driver education is required to be offered, the local school district governing board may, pursuant to Education Code Section 51225.3, determine if it is a required course for graduation. A driver education elective course may be applied toward meeting minimum graduation credits without requiring driver education for graduation.

4. **May a student be charged for Driver Education classes?**

At no time may a student be charged for driver education that is required to be offered by the school district regardless of when and where it is offered. Also, note that several court cases have held that high school students may not be charged for driver training in adult schools where the course is being used to satisfy Education Code Section 51120(j).

5. **When may Driver Education be scheduled?**

Driver education should be offered as a 10th grade course since this usually matches most students’ licensing age. Many districts are offering driver education instruction along with health education, since some course topics, such as alcohol, drugs, and driver fatigue, are discussed in both courses. Understanding this interrelationship is important since the leading health and safety issue among teens is associated with traffic collisions, the number one killer of teens in the state. The *Education Code* has several sections providing guidance.

Education Code Section 51851 states: “A course of instruction in automobile driver education shall . . . (B) Provide the opportunity for students to take driver education within the regular school day . . . Additional classes may be offered . . . to accommodate those who have failed or those who cannot enroll in the regular school day program.”

Education Code Section 41912 states in part: “The express purpose of the Legislature is that . . . this instruction properly belongs in the high school curriculum on a basis having comparable standards of instruction, quality, teacher-pupil ratio and class scheduling as in other courses in the regular curriculum in the regular academic program.”

6. **May a school district contract out for Driver’s Training or Education?**

School districts may not contract out for Driver Education. For Driver’s Training, Education Code Section 41913 states that the governing board of any school district maintaining secondary schools according to sections 41913 to 41919, inclusive, may enter into contracts with approved driver training schools to provide to any eligible enrolled students of the district, the automobile driver training as provided pursuant to section 51852. Section 51852 pertains to behind-the-wheel driver education.

7. **What are the required classroom hours for Driver Education?**

A course on instruction in automobile driver education shall be at least two and one-half semester periods and taught by a qualified instructor. A semester period is 30 hours.

8. **May Driver Education be offered in Home Study, Independent Study, or Internet online courses?**

Driver Education may only be provided by a qualified instructor.

Driver Training

1. **How many hours of driver training “behind the wheel” instruction are required?**

Twelve hours of instruction are required. This consists of six hours of actual driving with a qualified instructor and six hours of observation. *Education Code* Section 51852 provides other options for meeting this requirement.

2. **Are computer simulated driver training programs acceptable in place of “behind the wheel” instruction?**

While the Department of Education has the authority to approve driving simulators, a school district is prohibited by law, and the Department cannot legally allow, the use of driving simulators of any kind in place of behind-the-wheel instruction in any driver training plan included in *Education Code* section 51852.

Teacher Qualifications

1. **What is required to obtain a Driver Education credential?**

A public school teacher must have either a certificate to teach driver’s education or in lieu of a certificate, a waiver issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The certificate course work is 12 units. Only Fresno County Office of Education with Fresno State University and the University of California at Riverside are currently offering the certificate program in Driver Education. As a consequence, teachers seeking to teach driver education may obtain a waiver on a case-by-case basis from CCTC. For further information, contact CCTC. Out-of-state “long distance” college or university programs for Driver Education certification are not acceptable. It is highly recommended that CCTC be consulted before embarking on a certification program.

54th Annual CASE Conference



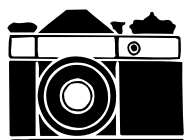
Alan Robinson, CEO of the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association, discussed national curriculum standards



CASE Board of Directors meeting prior to the conference



Outgoing CASE President John Knippel received recognition from the Board of Directors for his leadership



Conference photos provided by Ted Blake

Special Thanks to Our Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

Automobile Club of Southern California
A+ Auto and Home Insurance
Doron Precision Systems, Inc.
Downshift
Drive Friendly Driving School
Glencoe Publishing
Prentice Hall-Pearson Publishing

Theme: "The Rest of the Story"



CASE officers and Board Members after the Saturday luncheon



New CASE President Keith Merrihew



Del Freeman received special recognition from CASE as "Traffic Safety Professional of the Year"



Newly-elected CASE President-Elect Shannon Woods and Ed Abair, Dinuba Unified School District.



U.C. Riverside Extension's Driver Education and Training Credential Program

The information in this article was condensed by the editor from a presentation by Dr. Sue Teele at the CASE Palm Springs Conference in April. Dr. Teele is Director of UCR's Education Extension.

The University of California Riverside offers the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC)–approved credential programs leading to the Designated Subjects Special Subjects Credential in Driver Education and Training. Candidates are issued a Preliminary Five-Year Credential upon completion of the 18 quarter unit program.

Requirements for Entrance into the Program

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- Official transcripts of all upper division and graduate coursework
- Possession of a valid California driver's license and possession of a clear driving record from the DMV
- Passage of the CBEST test
- Verification of completion of a course in the provisions and principles of the U.S. Constitution or passage of an examination in the subject given by a regionally accredited college or university
- Letters of recommendation, verifying the applicant's qualifications and/or professional experience from each of the following: an administrator, supervisor, and a practicing credentialed teacher of driver education and training
- Non-refundable application fee of \$50.00
- Signed statement verifying the absence of a criminal record
- A copy of all valid California Credentials or Certificate of Clearance from the CCTC. (If a candidate does not possess a valid teaching credential, the Vocational Education Credential coursework is also required).

Program Components Include:

- Understanding of California Vehicle Code laws
- Characteristics of high risk drivers
- Ways to organize and evaluate traffic safety programs
- Current research findings in traffic safety
- Safety and risk factors involved in avoiding hazardous driving behaviors
- Perception skills and techniques for circumventing potential driving hazards
- Psychomotor skills needed for skillful operation, maneuvering and control of a motor vehicle
- The role of human diversity and promotion of educational equity in driver education and training
- Understanding the learning styles and different abilities of diverse learners
- Methods for designing, implementing and evaluating driver education and training programs



- Current laws, regulations and practices in driver education and training
- Budgeting, financial analysis, equipment and insurance needs for driver education and training programs
- Demonstration of all content discussed in the credential program and applications of actual on-street driving conditions
- Effective strategies of teaching a driver education and training program

Program Courses

Driver Education Orientation EDU X 813 (mandatory)—This course is offered twice each year and provides:

- Advisement on admission criteria and procedure
- Assessment
- Candidate appeal process
- Program requirements
- Requirements for a Preliminary and Clear Credential in Driver Education and Training
- Grading procedures, course challenges and incompletes

Driver Choice and Responsibility EDU X 317.1 (4 units)

Exploration of motivational factors, knowledge, and responsibility in driver performance. Awareness of personal value systems and intrinsic motivators that impact driving choices. Study of the California Vehicle Code and the full range of abilities needed for responsible driving. Attributes of the safe, mature, efficient, and conscientious driver are presented.

Safety and Risk Factors in Driver Education and Training EDU X 317.2 (4 units)

Study of attention as an essential element in safe driving. Effects of impaired states and strategies for avoiding hazardous driving behavior. Evaluation of potential hazards. Factors influencing risk judgment and errors. Determination of adequate safety margins and recognition of unsafe driving maneuvers.

Driver Skills and Abilities EDU X 317.3 (4 units)

Development of perception skills and techniques to circumvent potential driving hazards. Mental processing of information from the senses. Weighing of options and selecting a timing of responses. Hazards of failure to respond and consequences of risk. Psychomotor skills needed for skillful operation, maneuvering, and control for a motor vehicle.

U. C. Riverside Extension Credential Program

(Continued from page 6)

Pedagogical/Organizational Considerations in Driver Education and Training EDU X 317.4 (2 units)

The role of human diversity and the promotion of educational equity in driver education and training. Attributes and learning styles/abilities of the diverse learner. Basic operations, terminology and capabilities of computer-based technologies. Organizing and managing a driver education and training program. Designing, evaluating, and implementing traditional and competency-based programs.

Behind-the-Wheel Competencies EDU X 317.5 (4 units)—

Prerequisite: Completion of all Coursework.

Application, under actual on-street driving conditions, of content learned in the Driver Education and Training program. Demonstration of competence in teaching program content. Illustration of pre-driving measures and procedures, and skills requisite for safe vehicle management. Implementation of varied instructional techniques and methods.

Program total = 18 quarter units

Qualifications for the Clear Designated Subjects Special Subjects Teaching Credential in Driver Education and Training

- Verify possession of DSSS Preliminary Teaching Credential in Driver Education and Training.
- Verify two years teaching experience, a minimum of 1 course in each of 4 terms within a 5 year period of validity of the preliminary credential. Three of the 4 semesters must be with one district.
- Verify completion of a CCTC approved program of personalized preparation in a program.
- Verify completion of CCTC approved coursework in Health Education, CPR (including adult, infant and child), and demonstrate an understanding of instructional technologies including general and specialized use of computers.

For Further Information:

Contact Michelle Sang at UC Riverside School of Extended Education (951) 827-1661.

CDC Survey Shows Teen Alcohol Use has Decreased

According to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, American teenagers are drinking less than they did 15 years ago. The results of a 2005 survey of 14,000 students were released in June and show a drop in alcohol use from 51% in 1991 to 43% in 2005. However, the survey found that marijuana use rose to 20% in 2005 from just 15% in 1991. The survey is conducted every two years in high school across the U. S.

Electronic Stability Control Could Reduce Fatal Crashes by One-third

Ten thousand fatal automobile crashes a year, nearly one-third of all such accidents, could be prevented if more vehicles were equipped with electronic stability control that helps to keep them from rolling over, according to a study released in June by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Researchers based their findings on a federal fatalities database and police reports of crashes in 10 states from 2001-2004.

Available in many new cars, this technology helps drivers maintain control of their vehicle during extreme steering maneuvers by keeping the vehicle headed in the driver's intended direction, even when the vehicle nears or exceeds the limits of road traction.

The study said electronic stability control reduced the risk of single-vehicle rollovers involving sport utility vehicles by 80 percent, and 77 percent for passenger cars. The IIHS said ESC reduced the risk of fatal crashes by 43 percent. It is estimated that if all vehicles had stability control it could prevent as many as 10,000 of the 34,000 fatal crashes each year. "The findings indicate that ESC should be standard on all vehicles," said Susan Ferguson, the Institute's senior vice president for research. "Very few safety technologies show this kind of large effect in reducing crash deaths."

Auto safety officials note that rollovers are extremely dangerous, accounting for only 3 percent of all crashes but leading to more than 10,000 deaths a year. An estimated 43,200 people died on highways in 2005. Stability control, which automatically applies brakes to individual wheels if they sense a vehicle is veering off course, has become more widely available in recent years, especially on SUVs and pickups.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is currently developing a new performance standard for stability control and is expected to release the proposal later this year. NHTSA recently estimated that 70 percent of new SUVs have stability control as standard equipment. The Institute said the feature was standard on 40 percent of all 2006 passenger vehicles and optional on another 15 percent from the 2006 model year.

*Insurance Institute for Highway Safety:
<http://www.iihs.org/news/rss/pr061306.html>*

Visit the CASE Website: www.casewebsite.org



Please help us increase our membership!

Our Membership Committee is requesting that each member do his/her part to bring in new members. Please check with the driver education professionals at your school or district to see if they are members of CASE. If not, provide them with the membership application below and discuss the importance of belonging to their professional association.



Make check payable to:
CASE
25 Shelbourne Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

Membership Application (please type or print)

Professional Memberships are **\$40.00**. New memberships are valid for one year from date of receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School: _____ District _____

County: _____

Phone: School or office () _____ - _____ Evenings: () _____ - _____

Referred by (optional): _____