

Drivers Education Information

- 1. If the student fails Drivers Education but passes HPE10 can they retake Driver Education in the 11th grade?**

A: Only students that are enrolled in HPE 10 for credit may take Drivers Education through the HPE 10 curriculum. Student must be enrolled in full-year HPE 10.

- 2. What are other options for a student who fails only the Drivers Education portion of HPE 10?**

A: Students may take Drivers Education through a private company, or see their counselor to apply for online Drivers Education through VADETS.com

- 3. If a student fails HPE 10 but passes Drivers Education do they have to retake Drivers Education in the 10th grade?**

A: Yes. The Virginia Department of Education requires two quarters of health to pass HPE 10, and Drivers Education is one of the two health components. All components must be taken again if a student fails the course.

- 4. Can the student take Behind the Wheel before taking Drivers Education?**

A: No, students must have the DEC-1 card (green Drivers Ed card) that is issued at the completion of the classroom Drivers Education course.

- 5. Where can the student take Behind the Wheel? What are the costs?**

A: If you want to go through FCPS: For information call the Driver Education office at 703-658-1289 or 703-658-1290. Online : www.fcps.edu/aceclasses You can also check the school newspaper, many companies advertise in the paper. Costs range from \$250-\$350 depending on time of year and the company you go through. FCPS is usually cheaper.

- 6. Is there a Behind the Wheel teacher at Westfield?**

A: Yes, Mr. Todd Utter is a Behind the Wheel instructor. He often teaches Behind the Wheel out of the Westfield High School parking lot.

7. How many hours of driving are needed before taking Behind the Wheel?

A: Students only need 10 hrs of driving but I stress the importance of more hours since they will be tested driving through subdivisions (25mph), Rt 50/28/29(45mphs) and then on Rt 66/95 (55mph). Students must have experience in all these situations before they take BTW or they will fail the class.

8. At what age can the student receive their learner's permit?

A: To obtain a Virginia learner's permit go to <https://mail.fcps.edu/webdoc/citizen/drivers/learners.asp> you must be at least fifteen years and six months. The minimum age for obtaining a Virginia driver's license is sixteen years and three months.

9. What happens if a student loses their DEC-1card?

A: Students that lose their DEC-1 card can obtain a replacement card by reporting to Sub School 1. Ms. Andi Smith, the administrative assistant for Harry Van Trees (Physical Education administrator) can begin the process. It may take 1-2 weeks for students to obtain a replacement DEC-1 card, depending on availability.

10. What happens if the student and parent DO NOT attend one of the five scheduled PSTD presentations in the auditorium?

A: The student WILL NOT receive a DEC 1 card and WILL NOT be able to take behind the wheel classes. If they cannot take BTW they will not be able to receive a driver's license.

11. What time does the PSTD start? Where is it held? Who needs to come? Can I leave early?

A: It is held in the auditorium at Westfield. The program starts and the doors are shut at 7pm. The program lasts 90 minutes. It is advised to arrive early(6:45pm), bring a pen to write with, and both student and parent/guardian must attend together. If you leave early you WILL NOT receive credit for attending and need to come to another PSTD presentation.

New State Requirement Affects All Students

Applying for First Driver's Licenses

Beginning in September, a new state requirement—affecting all students applying for a juvenile driver's license—**will require each student and his or her parent or guardian to complete a 90-minute Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) parent-teen driving program.** This program will be required—in addition to successful completion of the classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction driver education course—to obtain a driver's license.

A student will not receive a DEC-1 (green) card until both requirements—successful completion of the classroom instruction course and attendance at the parent-teen driving program—have been satisfied. This requirement will apply to any student participating in driver education in grade 10 Health and Physical Education during the school year, as well as students enrolled in Adult and Community Education (ACE) classroom instruction courses.

The parent-teen driving program will be provided at all Fairfax County high schools once during each quarter of the school year. Dates, times, and locations will be advertised through driver education classes and on the FCPS public web site. Fees will not be assessed for the face-to-face program for any student enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools grade 10 Health and Physical Education course.

The full text of Virginia House Bill No. 1782 can be seen at <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?091+ful+HB1782+pdf>.