

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ**  
**(AND RETAIN FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)**

## **DRIVER EDUCATION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **As the parent or guardian of a teenager, you are entitled to know the minimum requirements of a teen driver education course**

- ❖ 32 required hours of classroom instruction
- ❖ 14 required hours of behind the wheel in-car instruction – which includes seven (7) clock hours of in-car driving instruction; and seven (7) clock hours of in-car observation
- ❖ 30 additional clock hours of behind-the-wheel practice/instruction must be provided to young drivers and certified by a parent, guardian or an adult 21 years of age or older
- ❖ Completion of the **Impact Texas Teen Drivers (ITTD) Program** (Prerequisite to the drive skills exam by Department of Public Safety)

### **Student Eligibility**

- Must be 15 years of age by the last day of the classroom phase;
- Persons 18 years old are no longer applicable; they are required to complete a 6 hour course exclusively for adults
- Must be enrolled in public or private school and have attended at least 80 days during the previous semester; or
- Have been enrolled at least 45 days and currently enrolled in a program to prepare persons to pass the high school equivalency exam; or have successfully completed the GED program.

### **Classroom Phase Information**

When Weatherford ISD Schools are closed, there will not be any Driver Education classes.

### **Attendance Requirements**

- State law requires students to complete the full 32 hours of the classroom instruction with a minimum passing grade of 70.
- Students participating in extracurricular activities that interfere with class attendance should not register for driver education until such time as these activities will not conflict with classroom instruction.
- Students who are more than 5 minutes late may be counted absent for the entire class period and make up time may be required at an additional cost to the student.
- Students may be removed from the class roll after 4 hours (2 days) of absences.
- One make-up day will be scheduled at the end of each classroom session. An extra fee of \$5 per hour will be charged for all make-up work. If the student is not able to complete all make up hours at that time, they will need to make arrangements to attend the next available session to complete the hours. If the make-up hours are not completed in a timely manner, student may be required to take the 32 hour classroom phase again in order to apply for instruction permit.

### **Student and Parent Responsibilities**

- Students will be expected to follow the Weatherford High School Student Code of Conduct.
- Students may be dropped from the course for improper classroom behavior or conduct or for actions that interfere with other students' learning.
- Students must turn off cell phones during class time and are not to have phones out or in use. Phones may be taken up or students may be dismissed from class for not following expectations.

### **Procedures for Obtaining Instruction Permit**

- Students will be eligible to receive their driver's permit after all 32 hours of required classroom instruction have been completed. Students will receive a DE-964E form from classroom instructor, which they will take to the DPS Office.
- The Department of Public Safety Office will require: a Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form from students home campus, the DE964E certificate (from classroom instruction), the student's state issued certified birth certificate, Social Security card, Texas Residency Affidavit and the required fee in order to take the written exam.
- Once students pass the Texas learner permit test they are issued an instruction permit, which allows them to drive under the supervision of a licensed driver 21 years old. Student must hold the instruction permit for six (6) months.

**Student must complete the entire 32-hour classroom phase and receive their instruction permit before classroom credit can be passed to the Parent Taught Driver Education course, to another Driving School, or before any in-car behind-the-wheel training can be accomplished (this includes any classroom make up hours that need to be completed).**

## Driving Phase Information

Prior to beginning the behind-the-wheel instruction: request the official "Transfer" form of the 32 hour classroom instruction from the driver education school (Community Education Office). This "Transfer" form will be needed as verification of successful completion of the 32 hour classroom phase.

Once the student has received their permit, they will be eligible to begin the behind-the-wheel driving phase, which consists of a total of **44 hours**.

- **30 hours behind-the-wheel practice/instruction** required to be certified by a parent or guardian. Young drivers must receive 30 hours of behind-the-wheel practice/instruction monitored by a parent or guardian. The hours must be completed in the presence of an adult who holds a valid license, is 21 or older, has at least one year of driving experience, and occupying the seat next to the driver. The *Behind-the-Wheel Practice Guide* and information is available at [www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/driver.htm](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/driver.htm)
- **14-hour Behind-the-Wheel driving instruction phase:**

The Behind-the-Wheel instruction can be completed by:

- Parent Taught Driver Education -- \*See information below regarding PTDE
- Driver Training School -- \*\* See list of Driving Schools below

### Parent Taught Driver Education

**\* Prior to starting any Parent Taught Driver Education (PTDE) course, a request form and fee must be submitted to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. For assistance and information about the Parent Taught In-Car Instruction, you may visit the following website:**

**<http://www4.esc13.net/pt101>**

- \*Parent must apply for a Parent Taught packet (\*see information above) and receive it before beginning the behind-the-wheel in-car phase. Once the packet is received from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, parent must choose and purchase an approved parent-taught course.
- Parent should not begin teaching the behind-the-wheel phase until the PTDE course curriculum is received. The packet includes information on choosing an approved course, how to teach the course as required by Texas law, and how to apply for a license for student once behind-the-wheel training has been completed.
- Complete the requirements as specified in the Parent Taught packet that apply to the in-car phase only

### **\*\*Contact information for Driving Schools:**

○ Alliance Driving School	Ft. Worth, Tx	817-581-4200
○ Austin Driving School	Ft. Worth, Tx	817-292-5666
○ Burleson Driving Academy	Weatherford, Tx	817-599-0099
○ First Class Driver	Ft. Worth, Tx	817-926-2896
○ Keys to Defensive Driving	Ft. Worth, Tx	817-370-8555
○ Maverick Driving Academy	Willow Park, Tx	817-789-1973
○ Sears Driving School	Ft. Worth, Tx	817-856-2000

All youth who complete a Teen Driver Education program (32 hours classroom/44 hours behind-the-wheel), are now required to view the **Impact Texas Teen Drivers (ITTD) Program** and receive a completion certificate **prior** to taking the drive skills examination at the Department of Public Safety.

For more information about the ITTD program, visit <https://impacttexasteendrivers.dps.texas.gov>

*Driving is not a right; it is a privilege with obligations, responsibilities and consequences*