Driver Education

National Standards and State Assessments
National Standards

» Sponsor - NHTSA
» Members of the Driver Education Community
At The Table

- DSAA
- ADTSEA
- DETA
- AAMVA
- Researchers (TRB)
- GHSA
- NSC
- AAA
- AAA Foundation
- NTSB
Charge and Focus of Participants

» State Administration Level
» Over-arching issues, NOT Details
Why?

» NTSB Recommendations - No
» Pressure from Congress - No
» Compartmentalized/fractured nature of the DE Community – Yes!
Process

» Highway Safety Guideline #4 as starting point
» Initial working group
» National Conference – Scottsdale, AZ, February 17, 2009
» Transition to long term process
Topic Areas

» Program Administration
» Education/Training
» Instructor Qualification
» Parent/Guardian Involvement
» Coordination With Driver Licensing
Significant Issues

» Program Administration
   » Administered by single state agency or agencies informed/coordinated by an advisory board of stakeholders
   » Full-time funded state administrator
   » 19 more elements
Significant Issues

» Education /Training
  » National accepted content & benchmarks
  » 1st phase 45 class hours; 10 BTW hours; 10 Observation hours, as minimums
  » 2nd phase 10 hour minimum
  » May be enhanced with simulation and/or driving range but not replaced
  » Distributive learning – education/training process extended over time
Significant Issues

» Instructor Qualification
  » Initially qualified
  » Can pass state qualification test
  » Ongoing professional development
  » Acceptable driving record
  » Meet physical requirements
  » Expect to see more in this area in next iteration to be released soon
Significant Issues

» Parent Involvement
  » Pre-course meeting with parents
  » Inform best practices of GDL research
  » Post-course debriefing to inform parent on progress and proficiency of teen driver
Significant Issues

» Coordination with Driver Licensing
  » Requires state to have a good GDL
  » Connects DE with State Licensing processes (GDL) – “communication and collaboration”
5.0 Coordination with Driver Licensing

5.1 Each state should:

5.1.1 have a formal system for communication and collaboration between the state driver education and training agency and the state driver licensing authority. This system should allow sharing of information between driver education and training program/course administrators and the state’s driver licensing authority.

5.1.2 have a GDL system that includes, incorporates, or integrates driver education and training. Completion of driver education and training should not reduce the time requirements in the GDL process.

5.1.3 provide information and education on novice teen driving requirements and restrictions to judges, courts, and law enforcement officials charged with adjudicating or enforcing GDL laws.

5.1.4 ensure that sanctions for non-compliance with GDL requirements by novice teen drivers are developed and enforced uniformly.

5.1.5 require a parent to submit state-specified documentation that certifies completion of required supervised hours in a manner that reduces the possibility of fraudulent entries.

5.1.6 ensure that state licensing tests are empirically based and reflect performance competencies of the standards-based driver education and training program outlined in the previous sections of this document.

5.1.7 develop and implement a valid and reliable driver’s knowledge and skills test that assesses factors associated with the novice teen driver’s ability to reduce driving risks.
NHTSA State Assessment Program

» Offered to States in various program areas
  » Occupant Protection, Impaired Driving EMS, Traffic Records, etc.
  » Requested and funded by States
  » Team of Experts, State presentations, Recommendations to states

» Driver Education is latest area
Driver Education State Assessment Program

» Maryland MVA conducted 1\textsuperscript{st} (8/10)
» Oregon DOT conducted 2\textsuperscript{nd} (12/10)
  (as NHTSA pilot)
» Based on National Standards
Process

SHSO → Regional Office → Headquarters
Assessment Program

» Team of Experts
» State Presentations
» Recommendations / Report
» State Implementation
Teen Drivers

A Comprehensive Approach to Teen Driver Safety

A MESSAGE TO ALL TEEN DRIVERS:
Keep your hands on the wheel, your eyes on the road, and both (hands and eyes) away from your cell phone while driving.

NHTSA has developed a multi-tiered strategy to prevent motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries among teen drivers: increasing seat belt use, implementing graduated driver licensing, reducing teens' access to alcohol, and parental responsibility.

Leading Cause of Death for Teens
The heart of NHTSA's mission is keeping families safe on America's roadways. Young drivers...
Teen Driver Education Program

The Novice Teen Driver Education and Training Administrative Standards serve to guide all novice teen driver education and training programs in States striving to provide quality, consistent driver education and training.

- Joint Agreement of National Stakeholders in Traffic Safety Education
- Resolution from the Driver Education National Standards Meeting, 02/19/2009

While administering education standards and policies are a State’s right, these standards serve as an anchor for State policies on driver education and training with the following understandings:

- Driver education and training should be an integral part of the GDL system.
- Driver development should be a lifelong learning process.
- Driver education and training should be a phased education process.
- Driver education and training standards should administer and provide quality and uniform driver education and training.

NHTSA State Assessment Program

NHTSA now offers state-wide assessments of driver education programs based on the national driver education administrative standards. At a State’s request, NHTSA will send a team of experts to analyze and make recommendations to improve the driver education program.
Thank You

Jim Wright, NHTSA
Driver Licensing / Driver Education
jim.wright@dot.gov
www.nhtsa.gov/DriverEducationProgram