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Northern Tioga School District runs in-school learner's permit test pilot

NCPA Staff

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Ron Lach

Tioga, Pa. — PennDOT has announced a new pilot project at Williamson High School in Tioga that allows students to take their learner's permit knowledge test at school instead of needing to go to a driver's license center.

The program is being piloted over a two-year period at Williamson and Cowanesque High School in the Northern Tioga School District.

“We’re incredibly excited about the remote knowledge testing pilot with Northern Tioga School District,” said PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. “In our more rural areas of the state, folks are used to driving longer distances, but it can be time-consuming and inconvenient. There are also fewer driver license centers in our rural areas, so out-of-the-box thinking and programs like this one can be a big time saver for aspiring young drivers and their families.”

The pilot program will be administered at the schools by a PennDOT-approved teachers, and students will take the knowledge test using specialized remote testing software. When a student passes the test, they can bring their results to a PennDOT driver’s license center along with the required documentation and completed learner’s permit application, pay the required fee, and receive their permit.

If a student fails the in-school test, they may retake it at school until they pass instead of making multiple trips to a license center.

“The knowledge testing program being offered online is allowing our students to access an important milestone, getting a driver’s permit, more easily,” said Northern Tioga School District Superintendent Kristopher Kaufman. “By allowing this test to be offered at their local school, students will not need to miss a day of school and families will not need to miss a day of work to travel to a DMV. Northern Tioga is grateful for this partnership with PennDOT.”

After the two-year pilot period, PennDOT will review the results and determine if and how remote testing or similar programs can be made available to other interested school districts.

NCPA Staff