

Traffic Safety Education and Driver Licensing in Washington

JTC Online Driver Training Workgroup

June 4, 2014



Washington's Strategic
Highway Safety Plan

DOL is the lead agency
for Young Drivers.



Two Pathways to Getting Your Driver License

**The Intermediate
Driver License Path
for 16-17 Year Olds
(Enacted in 2001)**



**The Unrestricted
License Path for
18+ Year Olds**

Intermediate License Requirements

Be at least 15 years old and get an instruction permit.

Complete at least 50 hours of driving practice (including 10 hours at night) with an experienced driver.

Pass a Traffic Safety Education (TSE) course.

Have your Instruction Permit for at least 6 months.

No alcohol or drug offenses while holding the Instruction Permit.

Pass the knowledge (written) test and driving skills test at any driver training and testing location. *HB 1635*

Get your license at a driver licensing office or online.



Passenger Restrictions for Non-Family

- First 6 months: No passengers under 20 years old, except for immediate family members.
- Next 6 months: No more than 3 passengers under 20 years old who aren't immediate family members.

Night Driving Restrictions for the First 12 Months

- No driving between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. for the first 12 months unless you're with a licensed driver 25 years.

No Use of Wireless Devices

Restrictions Expire After the Driver Turns 18 Years Old

18 And Over License Requirements



Pass the knowledge (written) test at a driver training and testing location.



Apply for an instruction permit if you plan to practice driving.

Instruction permit not required to test.



Pass the driving test at a driver training and testing location.



No restrictions and no education requirements.

Prior to 2002

OSPI set curriculum standards and annually approved all programs. DOL also licensed private schools and instructors.

2002

Legislature moved private driver training school oversight from OSPI to DOL (ESHB 2560).

2011

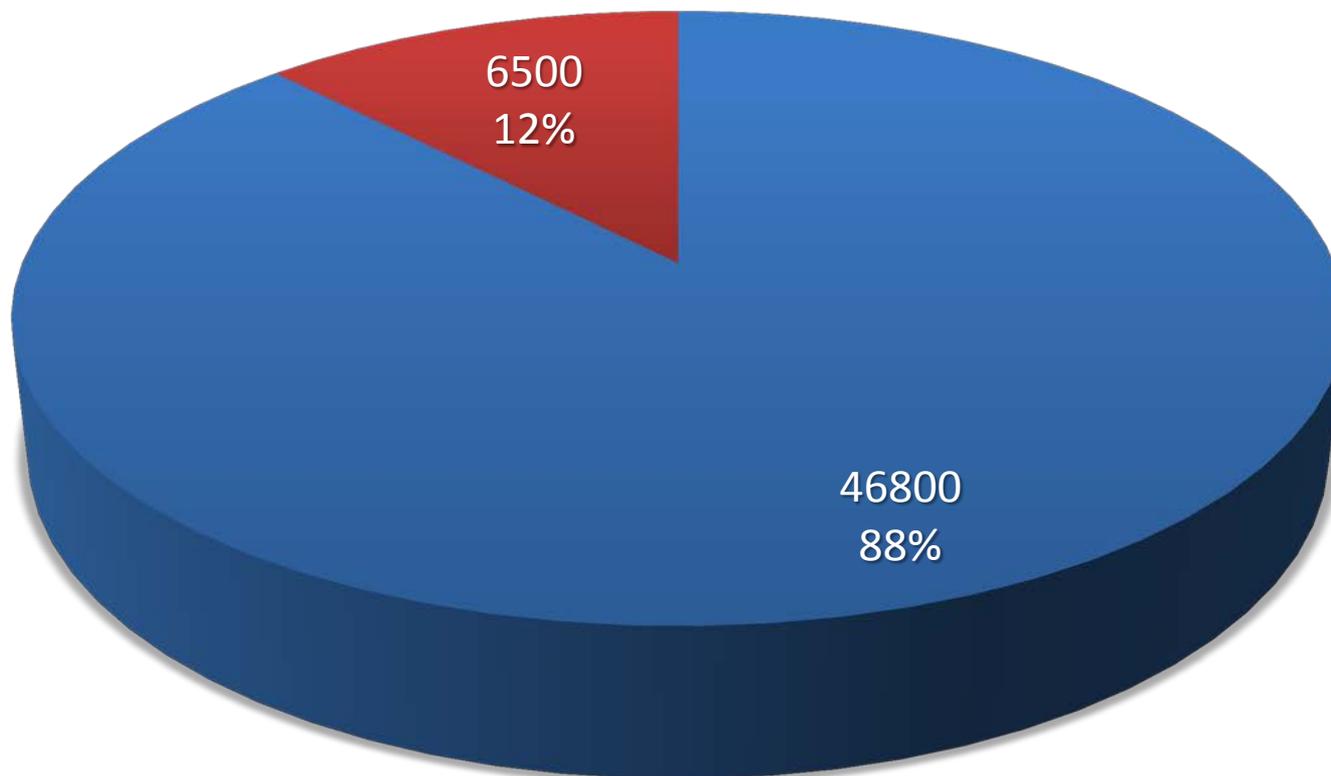
Legislature enacted ESHB 1635. This allows both knowledge and skills exams to be conducted by the training school itself (public school or private program).

Today

DOL continues to provide testing at 11 licensing offices and contracts with 330 schools.

Private Driver Training Schools Educate Most Young Drivers Enrolled in Traffic Safety Education

■ Commercial Schools ■ Public Schools



2013 Calendar Year

A Driver Training School submits an application and pays a \$500 fee to DOL.



All instructors must have 100 hours of training (40 hours classroom, 40 behind-the-wheel, 20 BTW supervised instruction) and pass both a knowledge and skills test.



DOL inspects the school, approves the curriculum, and issues the license.

Required Curriculum Topics



Safe, Lawful, & Responsible Operation



Intermediate License Issuance, Restrictions, and Sanctions



Alcohol & Drug Use Impacts on Driving



Motorcycle Awareness



Bicycle Safety



Pedestrian Safety

DOL adopted the Washington Risk Prevention Student Curriculum (WRPC) based on national standards.

Private driver training school curriculum must align with these requirements.

DOL approves and audits for compliance.



A total of 30 hours of classroom instruction (max 2 hours per day).

National standard is 45 hours.

A minimum of 6 hours of practice driving (max 1 hour per day).

National standard is 10 hours.

At least 1 hour observing another driver behind the wheel.



Students in a classroom session must be on the same lesson. Open enrollment or self-paced instruction is not permitted.



Classroom and behind the wheel instruction in a course must be contiguous.



Classroom and behind the wheel instruction is complementary and integrated.

Driver Training Program

Promoting teen driving safety through education.

