

MEETING SUMMARY

BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS

Driver Education overseen by Department of Licensing and Superintendent for Public Instruction

- In 2013, 46,800 students were enrolled in commercial driver training schools and 6,500 students were enrolled in public school programs.
- Pricing for commercial and public programs are similar
- DOL sets a basic curriculum, commercial schools audited for compliance.
- School districts govern curriculum in public schools, more local control.
- Instructor qualifications different.

Two Pathways to Driver License

- Intermediate Driver License for 16-17 year olds requires:
 - Driver education
 - 50 hours driving practice
 - Instruction permit for 6 months
 - Must pass knowledge and skills tests
 - Passenger and night driving restrictions for first year of license
- Unrestricted license for 18+ requires:
 - Must pass knowledge and skills tests

Young Driver Trends

- 16 - 25 year olds account for 14% of all drivers
- Between 2003 and 2009, there was a growing trend in WA of young people waiting until 18 to become licensed drivers
- This trend leveled off from 2009 to 2013
- Why do people wait? Household income and cost of driving
- Newly licensed 18 year olds are particularly risky
 - Overrepresented in fatal and serious crashes
 - Impairment increases with age as a contributing circumstance

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18-24 YEAR OLD TRAINING

Should it be limited to 18 - 24, why not all novice drivers?

- Safety data suggests that the 18-24 year olds present the greatest risk
- Novice drivers of all ages need training
- Possibility of using testing of skill & knowledge to trigger requirement
- What will public accept?

Course requirements?

- Importance of driver license to employment
- Should not create an undue delay because of driver education requirements
- Convenience and low cost important
- Focus on laws? Or overall competency, attitudes, skills?
- Would online be a good method for this group?

Intermediate Driver License-like License Restrictions?

- General skepticism
- No accountability for practice driving hours, no required log
- Practice hours and instruction permit would unduly delay
- Public acceptance? Could increase unlicensed drivers
- Could have passenger and night driving restrictions for newly licensed

Other

- Test should be improved, current test does not verify knowledge

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ONLINE DRIVER EDUCATION FOR 15 - 17 YEAR OLDS

Goal-Why do it?

- Enhancement of safety is not a reason for online driver education
- Accessibility, especially in rural areas
- Convenience
- It is just a delivery mechanism: just like there are good/bad classrooms, there are good/bad online courses
- Online states have higher fatality rates (casual analysis)
- What will public accept?

How to integrate into curriculum? Substitute, supplement, blend?

- DOL has significant concerns with replacing any of the classroom hours
- Use online to supplement classroom, expand requirements
 - National standard of 45 hours in classroom
 - Target Zero additions to curriculum
- Blend classroom and online components
- Allow some subjects to be treated in more depth in classroom
- Classroom courses are already blended (use computers, videos in classroom)
- Importance of teacher-student interaction
 - Computer cannot recognize whether skills/knowledge are sinking in
 - Importance of imprinting behaviors
 - In K12 digital learning, the computer does not become the teacher, the teacher remains the teacher

Program development

- Will likely be 3rd party vendors
- Cost of developing a project is high, millions to do the research, millions to design the program; few schools will be able to afford to develop a program
- Nearly all K12 online curricula are from 3rd party vendors, just like purchasing a classroom curriculum (textbook paired with an instructor)
- K12 virtual classroom model is not what most other states do for online driver education

Pilot project

- For evaluating a pilot, important to choose representative population of students
- Concern about even playing field
 - If only out of state vendors are able to provide the program, what will be impact on current schools?
 - Business advantage for those schools which get to participate
- Should be a 2 to 3 year pilot to allow evidence to emerge
- If a long pilot, must be broadly available, any school should be able to sign up, can they change the course along the way?
- Online should start with 18 - 24 year olds, then look at younger group later