

## Driver Training Education Past 3 years and looking forward

### Driver Curriculum Project - 2015

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Internal project team reviewed knowledge test and traffic safety education curriculum (both public and private) in comparison to Target Zero priorities and documented the gaps.

The Project team's conclusions included:

- The curriculum meets national standards – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) criteria);
- New questions had not been added to the knowledge exam bank since the mid-1990s;
- All three components of the project: curriculum, guide and knowledge exam did not include or address causal factors related to collisions resulting in fatal or serious injuries.

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Assessment

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- May 2016 – DOL and Washington Traffic Safety Commission jointly invited NHTSA to conduct independent assessment of state's driver training program in relation to national standards and best practices.
- Resulted in over 60 recommendations to improve the state's program, twelve of which were priority.
- Key priority recommendations included:
  - Strengthen oversight coordination between DOL and OSPI;
  - Provide a forum for open communication; and
  - Review, revise and approve all curricula by an instructional and content knowledge specialist.

### Implementation of HB 1481

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HB 1481 – Creating uniformity in driver training education provided by school districts and commercial driver training schools passed the 2017 Legislative Session with an effective date of August 1, 2018. It required DOL to:

- Create a certification process for school districts offering traffic safety education;
- In consultation with OSPI, DOL will audit school districts to ensure:
  - Instructors are qualified teachers of driver training education and are teaching the required curriculum material, and
  - Accurate records are maintained and accurate information is provided to the department of licensing regarding student performance.
- DOL and OSPI, in consultation with Central Washington University, must develop and maintain a required curriculum for driver training education (public and commercial)

## What changes have occurred?

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- Expanded the driver's license knowledge exam from 25 to 40 questions, including introduction of questions related to marijuana laws, cell phone use laws, and hazard awareness concepts.
- Updated the Driver Guide to reflect the above changes in the exam.
- DOL partnered with WTSC to provide hazard awareness resources and materials for use by driver training schools in their curriculum.
- DOL has set up a series of forums to meet with stakeholders.

## What are next steps related to driving training?

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