



Ohio Administrative Code Rule 4501-7-09 Driver education.

Effective: August 1, 2026

[Comment: For dates and availability of material incorporated by reference in this rule, see paragraph (A) in rule 4501-7-39 of the Administrative Code.]

Driver education courses for beginning drivers may be delivered in a classroom, via virtual instruction, or an online program to satisfy the requirements as provided for in division (C) of section 4508.02 of the Revised Code.

(A) The following requirements are the responsibility of all driver education schools, instructors, and training managers, as applicable, who provide instruction to beginning drivers.

- (1) No student will be accepted for driver education before attaining the age of fifteen years and five months without approval from the director;
- (2) The program shall be based on the principles of and cover, at a minimum, the body of knowledge contained in the "Ohio Driver Training Curriculum." The program includes no less than twenty-four hours of driver education;
- (3) The instruction consists of no less than sixty minutes of instruction for each hour credited toward completion of the required training;
- (4) The instruction includes dissemination of materials regarding anatomical gifts and anatomical gift procedures as specified in section 4508.021 of the Revised Code that are created or approved by the second chance trust fund advisory committee created under section 2108.35 of the Revised Code;
- (5) The instruction includes the dangers of driving a motor vehicle while using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication;
- (6) It shall be the responsibility of the driver training enterprise offering the driver education instruction to determine each student's successful completion by means of a comprehensive final examination, as prescribed by the director, measuring driver knowledge.
 - (a) No student being tested shall be permitted to refer to any materials that may contain answers to the questions thereon;
 - (b) The student shall answer seventy-five per cent or more of the questions comprising the final examination correctly in order to constitute a successful completion of the driver education course. If a student fails the exam, the student may be offered no more than two additional opportunities to pass without further education. Students may not be



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provided a final examination less than twenty-four hours from the last attempt;

- (7) Not more than nine hours nor fewer than three hours of driver education shall be devoted to showing educational videos, slides or films that relate to driver training. No videos, slides or films, or activities unrelated to safe driving practices, driver knowledge, or driver skill shall be used;
 - (8) All training as required in this rule and rule 4501-7-10 of the Administrative Code, as applicable, and provided by the enterprise shall be made available to, and completed by, the student within the contracted timeframe as provided in rule 4501-7-12 of the Administrative Code, unless mitigating circumstances occur. Mitigating circumstances include health and family issues that disrupt the student's ability to receive training. Mitigating circumstances do not include the inability to schedule training due to parent or student elective or extra-curricular activities, such as sports and school clubs. Mitigating circumstances shall be documented in the student's record. Requests for special circumstances not listed to be considered as "mitigating" shall be requested through the department. If no mitigating circumstances are approved, training will be voided and the student shall re-take the training.
- (B) In addition to the requirements listed in paragraph (A) of this rule, for class "D" licensed schools, providing instruction in the classroom or via virtual classroom courses for beginning drivers, shall also meet the following requirements:
- (1) Students shall be taught and supervised by a licensed instructor. Licensed instructors instruct students only under the authority and guidance of a licensed driver training school;
 - (2) The classroom environments shall be maintained in a manner that is conducive to learning. In maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning, consideration is given to the appropriate class size, appropriate methods of maintaining discipline, and any other relevant factors;
 - (3) For instruction provided via a virtual classroom environment, the instructor shall periodically ensure the students are present and actively engaged with the course content. This may be accomplished through quizzes, worksheets, group activities, or other educational activities related to the content being taught.
 - (4) The total training a student, between the ages of fifteen and a half years and seventeen years of age, receives shall not exceed four hours in one day. Students, age of eighteen years and older, may receive no more than eight hours of education in one day. Students receiving more than two continuous



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hours of training shall be permitted a break at the approximate mid-point of the lesson;

- (5) Current textbooks or workbooks, as defined in paragraph (S) of rule 4501-7-01 of the Administrative Code, or other materials used for classroom instruction shall be available to every student taking that instruction. Instructional materials referenced during classroom instruction shall be provided for each student;
 - (6) A student absent from a training session shall make up the segment of the training that was missed prior to receiving a certificate of completion;
 - (7) In addition to requirements in paragraph (A)(6) of this rule, it shall be the responsibility of the training manager and the instructor to provide each student with a final examination at the completion of classroom instruction.
 - (a) The final examination shall be administered and graded in-person by a licensed instructor. Only examinations provided by the director may be used. Accommodations shall be made for the final examination to assist students with confirmed learning difficulties.
 - (b) The student may not re-take an exam that the student had previously taken and failed.
 - (c) The record of all final examinations given shall include the date the test was given, the student's score, the name and signature of the instructor who administered and graded the test, and the student's name and signature.
- (C) In addition to the requirements listed in paragraph (A) of this rule, online driver education courses for beginning drivers shall meet the following requirements:
- (1) Students shall have a mechanism to have curriculum and content based questions and/or comments be responded to by an online provider through, but not limited to, message boards, chat rooms, e-mails and/or telephone calls;
 - (2) Any reference material required for the student to complete the online instruction is provided to the student prior to the start of the online instruction;
 - (3) Each student successfully enrolled in an online driver education course shall be provided with a username and password. This username and password shall be required for each time the student logs into the program;
 - (4) All instruction provided by the online provider must have measures in place that prevent a student from completing more than four hours of instruction in a calendar day;



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- (5) No student, under the age of eighteen years, shall be given more than four hours of training in an online driver education program within a calendar day. Students, aged eighteen years and older, may receive no more than eight hours of education in one day.
- (6) Personal validation questions appears periodically throughout the entire course and at a minimum appear once during the final examination. The student shall answer correctly the personal validation question within sixty seconds for the questions presented over the internet. The student shall have no more than one additional opportunity to answer another validation question if the student fails to answer correctly the first question. Failure to answer both validation questions correctly locks the student out of the program for twenty-four hours.
- (7) The online driver education program shall provide a final examination at the completion of the program during the online provider's operation hours. In addition to the requirements in paragraph (A)(6) of this rule, final examinations shall:
 - (a) Include fifty questions that have been randomly drawn from the "Examination Questions Test Bank." No question shall appear more than once per final examination;
 - (b) Not identify the correct answer of a final examination question to the student until the entire test has been completed and submitted;
- (8) Any modifications made to the online instruction, including but not limited to, design, quizzes, activities, modules, content, law updates or resources must be approved by the director prior to being placed into production.
- (9) In order to meet the standards set forth in division (A)(2)(a) of section 4508.02 of the Revised Code, an online provider must implement and maintain all security controls included in the "Online Driver Education Security Assessment."