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## Driver's Education Program Overview

Thank you for choosing NCE and the Newton Driving School for your Driver's Education program. This document includes important information about our program. Please read this carefully; you may also want to keep it for future reference.

Newton Driving School is contracted with the Newton Public Schools through Newton Community Education to offer Driver's Education to students wishing to obtain their Certificate of Driver Education. The Driver's Education program consists of 30 hours of classroom instruction, 12 hours of on-the-road instruction, six hours of observation of another driver, and a two-hour driver safety course for a parent or guardian of the student driver. This is state-mandated curriculum for anyone under the age of 18 wishing to receive a driver's license.

Any student who has reached the age of 15 years, nine months is eligible to begin taking classes. A learner's permit may be obtained from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, but it is not required before beginning Driver's Education classes. It is, however, required before beginning on-the-road lessons, as driving lessons cannot take place without a learner's permit. To obtain a learner's permit, students must be at least 16 years old. Please contact the Registry for more information on how to obtain a permit.

The Registry requires that all classroom and on-the-road instruction be completed within two years of the first class. If a student does not finish within that time, the tuition paid will not cover remaining Driver's Education classes or on-the-road lessons, and will not be refunded. Therefore, it is recommended that a student not begin Driver's Ed unless he or she expects to finish within this time frame.

### Keeping track

Each student will be given a card on which class attendance and driving lessons are recorded. Students must take responsibility for keeping this card and presenting it to their instructor at each class and driving lesson. This card will allow the student to get the certification needed for the final road test. **DO NOT LOSE THIS CARD**; it must be turned in when the student has completed all lessons and driving hours. ***Parents must also bring this card to the two-hour Parent Class so credit can be given to the student.***

### On-the-road and the Buddy System

On-the-road lessons are scheduled between the student and the driving school once classes have begun. Lessons begin and end at both high schools (Newton North and Newton South only). Driving lessons are not given during Driver's Ed class time. The student must have a learner's permit in order to begin his or her driving hours, though observation hours can be scheduled before the student has a permit. ***Two or more people must be in the car at all times—lessons cannot take place with individual students, even if they are over 18.*** Students may book their behind-the-wheel lessons with classmates, friends, or other drivers who are doing their observation hours. ***It is the student's responsibility to schedule with a "buddy."*** Students fulfilling observation hours are not required to bring a buddy, as there is already a driver in the car. Students having difficulty with this should see the instructor while classes are in session—please do not wait until the classes are over to ask for help in identifying potential buddies. ***Call Newton Driving School at 617-332-6323 to book your lessons.***

### **Required Class for Parent or Guardian of Driver's Education Student**

This class is mandated by the Registry of Motor Vehicles, and is designed to educate parents in teaching their children to drive, and to familiarize them with the Driver's Ed curriculum. The current schedule for parent classes is listed here and on our website. You may complete the parent class at any time, but doing so after your child has finished his or her classroom and driving hours may delay your child receiving his or her completion certificate. ***Please bring your child's tracking card to your class.*** If you attended this class with a previous child ***within the last five years*** and you have the certificate, it is not necessary to repeat the parent class, but your child must present this certificate to his or her classroom teacher for credit.

### **The Road Test**

At your request, Newton Driving School can take your student for his or her final driver's license test, if he or she has had a learner's permit for at least six months. You will be charged \$120 extra for this service. You may opt to go to the Registry on your own for the test; please contact the Registry for details.

### **Fees**

Your tuition covers all 30 hours of classroom instruction, 18 hours of on-the-road instruction (including observation hours), and the two-hour parent class. This also includes the \$15 Driver Education Certificate of Completion, issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. There are no discounts or refunds, and only limited scholarships are available. Tuition does not include other Registry fees (\$30 to obtain permit; \$70 to obtain a license). If a student wishes to take the road test in one of Newton Driving School's vehicles, he or she may arrange this at additional cost with the driving school (see above). This is an optional service; if you choose to take your test through the RMV the cost is included in your license fee, but you must bring your own vehicle. Contact the Registry for details on this. There is a fee of \$70 for obtaining a driver's license from the Registry. We recommend that you pay this fee when you apply for a learner's permit, as this will help streamline the final process of receiving the license.

### **Cancellation/Withdrawal Policy**

There are ***no refunds*** given for the Driver's Education program. ***Additionally, a \$30 cancellation fee will be charged to any student who cancels on-the-road instruction within 24 hours of appointment, or does not show up for a scheduled appointment.*** Students may arrange to have another qualified driving student take their place if they cannot keep an appointment, but cancelled appointments without a 24-hour notice, or "no-shows," will be charged this penalty fee.

### **Why Get a Driver's Education Certificate?**

A certification of completion of Driver Education enables a student to take the road test (and if passed, obtain a Junior Operator's License) before age 18, provided he or she has held a learner's permit for at least six months and has a clean driving record. The certificate will also enable a student to obtain a reduction in car insurance for several years.

### **Three ways to Sign Up**

1. Register online at [www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org)
2. Call the NCE office at **617-559-6999**
3. Pick up a registration form from our office at Newton North or Newton South, or download it from the Forms link on our website, and mail to us with your payment.

If you have questions on any of the above information, please call the NCE office at 617-559-6999 or the Newton Driving School at 617-332-6323.