



# Driver Education Program News

ODOT - Transportation Safety Division

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## The Driver Education Program Team

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## Driver Education Program Update

**William A. Warner**, Manager  
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Bill Warner proudly displays the first batch of completion cards that will allow students to waive the DMV drive test.

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### Effective March 1, 2014

The Oregon Administrative Rules for Chapter 737, Division 15 (Driver Education) have been modified to implement the new law that was signed into effect last May. The rule revision affects every provider, instructor, school and potential student in the driver education community. We urge you to carefully review the rule revision, which you will find posted on the front page of our website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/Pages/de.aspx>

The numbers of students on waiting lists at community colleges and some high school programs has increased. This could be due, in part, to the new Waiver Program. While this is exciting news, it has not come without its share of challenges.

The Waiver Program is one of the new programs slated to be covered during the Driver Education Advisory Committee meeting in March at the Pacific Northwest Driver and Traffic Safety Conference, but I want everyone else to be aware of the challenges too.

The biggest challenge has been the identification of the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) in the new relationship with Transportation Safety Division (TSD) which is where Driver Education lives. The biggest thing to remember is that although this is a joint venture, the "new" part is the fact that the DMV, who has the power to waive a test requirement, has chosen to do so for the statewide approved driver education programs.

This means that the same program we have been delivering across the state of Oregon for the past several years has earned the trust of our sister department in ODOT. When they look statistically at graduates of our program, they are convinced that teens do not need a final test through DMV; the final drive of our approved program is enough to guarantee the student has a minimum standard of performance related to driving a motor vehicle safely.

*Driver Education Program Update Continued on the Next Page...*

So why the challenges? We have had Providers and Instructors contacting the DMV with questions about how the final drives should be handled. DMV responds with more questions than answers because they have nothing to do with the final drives of TSD-approved driver education programs. DMV grants the waiver of the test, and that's really all they do as part of this program.

I have told several Providers, Owners and even Parents, that involving the DMV in any aspect of our program only causes confusion. DMV is happy to leave us to providing a quality program, so please leave those poor people be. ☺

A final thought. Remember that your responsibility to assess your students is not increased with this new development. The responsibility has ALWAYS been there. Thank you for your part in increasing the economy of traffic safety in Oregon. ❖

## Great Things are Happening in Oregon

William A. Warner, Manager  
Driver Education Program  
ODOT Transportation Safety Division



In just a few short days, we have two great big things happening in Oregon. The 7th-9th of March we have our annual Regional Conference with 4 states worth of driver educators attending. I hope you have your registration and lodging booked because everything fills up fast. If you haven't done so, go here: <http://app.certain.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x1650303c94a>.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the conference, and look for the ODOT-TSD table in the main presentation area. Mary and I will be available throughout the conference to speak with you about your programs or answer questions you may have.

The other thing that is happening is the new subsidy program. The Low/No Income Subsidy (Free and Reduced or F&R) goes live on March 1st and should dramatically increase the number of teens who take the approved courses.

ODOT-TSD is proud to make this additional subsidy available; thanks to the 2013 legislature. However, there are a couple of things to know before we go forward.

The student qualifies for up to \$75.00 of additional subsidy by showing documentation to the Provider that he/she qualifies for low/no income assistance (set through their high school or school district).

The Provider needs to have a policy for how they are going to validate that they have checked each student's claim that they qualify. We don't recommend that any school actually keep the "proof" but, instead, document that someone official has seen the documentation (and returned it to the parent).

Whether the Provider maintains the documentation of qualification in each student's file, or has a general file for each course with a listing of which students qualified for the additional subsidy; this documentation should be made available to a state driver education program representative upon request. ❖

## Playbook Interface Course Offered by Chemeketa Community College



Chemeketa Community College just finalized the on-line Playbook Interface course and will be rolling it out for registrations on Tuesday, Nov 12th. This course will be more of an individual based class, so there will not be a requirement for a minimum number of students to begin a class. Those interested will get registered within a day of calling and they will have two weeks from that date to complete the course. It is an 8-hour course and the cost will be \$25.

Those participating will need to have access to the Playbook and will need to let Chemeketa know at time of registration whether or not they have a copy of the Playbook.

Below is a description of the course:

The new Playbook Interface is a totally different way to deliver driver education. Learning how to use the Playbook and all its contents will allow you to be more effective with your driver education students. As you work through the presentations and activities see how the concepts are connected and how each concept builds on the last. See how the delivery strategy now uses less direct lecture from PowerPoint presentations and how the Playbook Interface uses various activities to engage the learner in ways which are more relevant.

If you have a group of five or more instructors, Chemeketa CC may be able to tailor a class to fit your specific needs.

For more information and course descriptions go to the [Chemeketa webpage](#) or to register by phone, call Chemeketa directly at: 503 584-7541.