

DRIVER EDUCATION

The Essex County School Board offers a program of driver education in the high schools in the safe operation of motor vehicles.¹ The program includes instruction concerning alcohol and drug abuse, aggressive driving, motorcycle awareness, the dangers of distracted driving and speeding, organ and tissue donor awareness, fuel-efficient driving practices and traffic stops, including law-enforcement procedures for traffic stops, appropriate actions to be taken by drivers during traffic stops and appropriate interactions with law-enforcement officers who initiate traffic stops.²

The Essex County School Board establishes fees, that do not exceed the limit established by the Department of Education, for the behind-the-wheel portion of the program. The Essex County School Board may waive the fee or surcharge in whole or in part for those students it determines cannot pay the fee or surcharge.

Any student who participates in a driver education program must meet the academic requirements established by the Board of Education. No student is permitted to operate a motor vehicle without a learner's permit or a license. Necessary certification of students' academic standing and compliance with compulsory attendance laws is provided by the administration to the Department of Motor Vehicles upon request, in accordance with state law.

FOOTNOTES ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM FINAL POLICY.

¹ School boards are not required to offer driver education programs. A division that does not offer such a program should not adopt this policy. Boards that do offer driver education may offer classroom training or behind-the-wheel instruction or both. Divisions that do not offer behind-the-wheel should not adopt the second paragraph of this policy and should remove Policy JN as a Cross Reference to this policy.

² In addition, in Planning District 8, the program must include an additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component as part of the in-classroom portion of the driver education curriculum, requiring the participation of the student's parent or guardian and emphasizing parental responsibilities regarding juvenile driver behavior, juvenile driving restrictions pursuant to the Code of Virginia, and the dangers of driving while intoxicated and underage consumption of alcohol. Such instruction shall be developed by the Department of Education in cooperation with the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, the Department of Health, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, as appropriate. Such program shall require a minimum number of miles driven during the behind-the-wheel driver training. School boards in Planning District 8 must make this component available to all students and their parents or guardians who are in compliance with Va. Code § 22.1-254. No student who is at least 18 years of age, an emancipated minor, or an unaccompanied minor who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian may be required to participate in this component.

Driver education instructors possess valid driver's licenses and maintain satisfactory driving records. Any teacher of behind-the-wheel instruction who receives six or more demerit points in a 12-month period will be suspended from teaching driver education for 24 months³.

At the beginning of each school year and thereafter as necessary, the superintendent reports to the Department of Motor Vehicles the name and driver's license number of all persons providing instruction in driver education for the Essex County Public Schools Division.

Adopted: April 9, 2012
Revised: August 14, 2017
August 9, 2021

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-205, 46.2-334, 46.2-340.

8 VAC 20-340-10.
8 VAC 20-720-80.

Cross Ref.:	JED	Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals
	JN	Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

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³ Each school board can determine what a satisfactory driving record is for driver education instructors. Boards are free to include requirements which are more or less stringent than those included here.