



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**LICENSING**



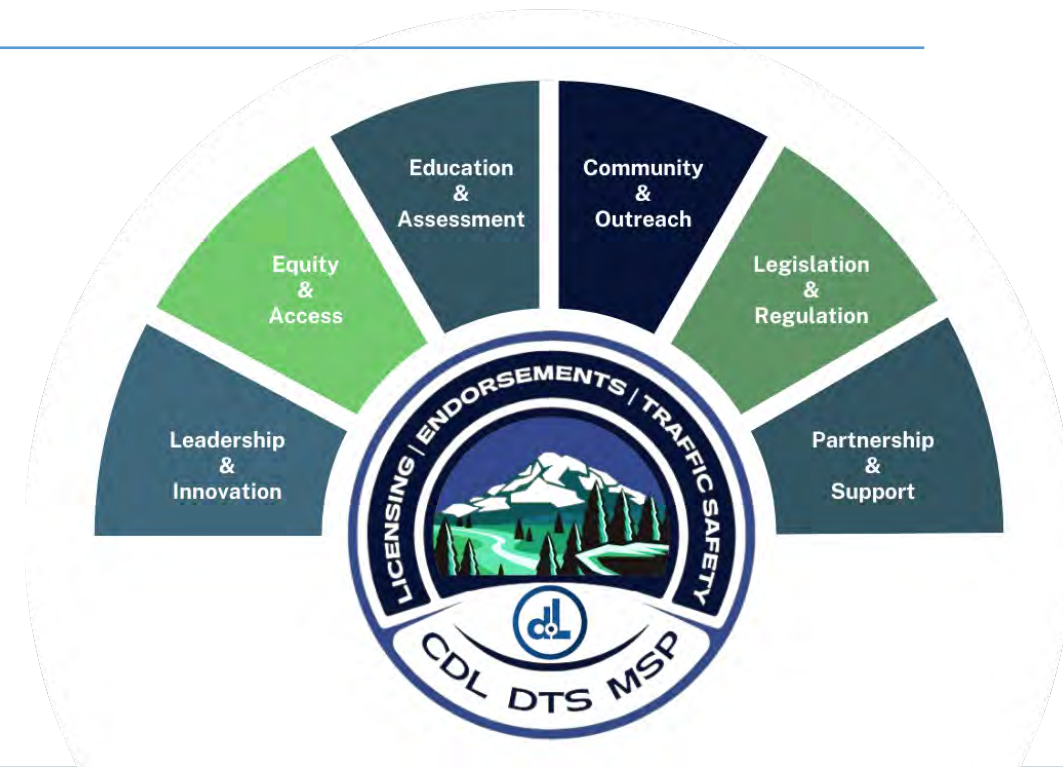
# The Future of Driver Education: Washington Leading the Way

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New  
Traffic Safety  
Education Standards



New  
Driver  
Guide



New  
Curriculum



New  
Knowledge  
Exam



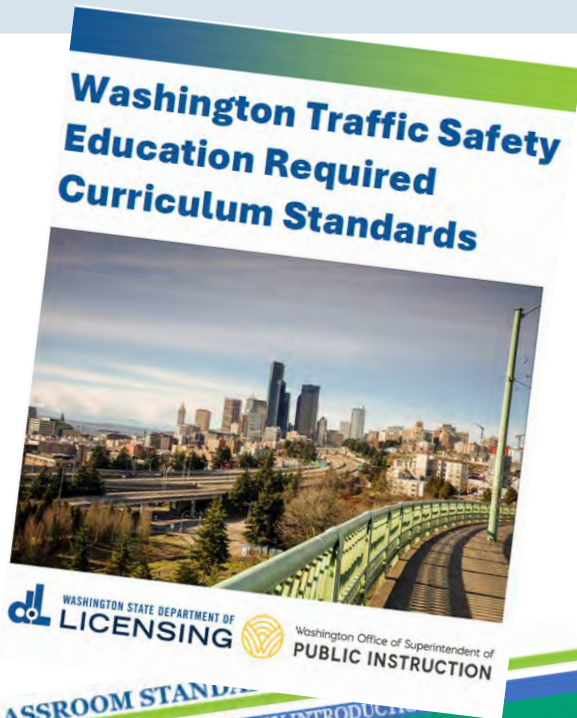
New  
Assessment  
Accommodations



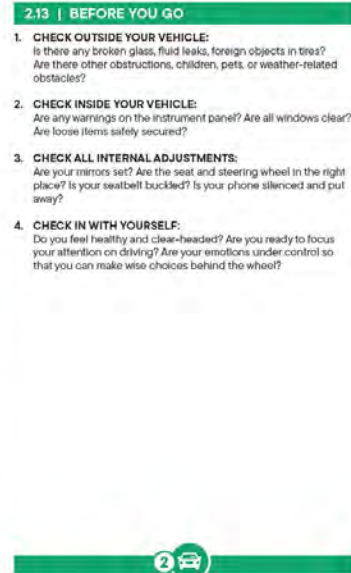




## New Traffic Safety Education Standards



## New Driver Guide

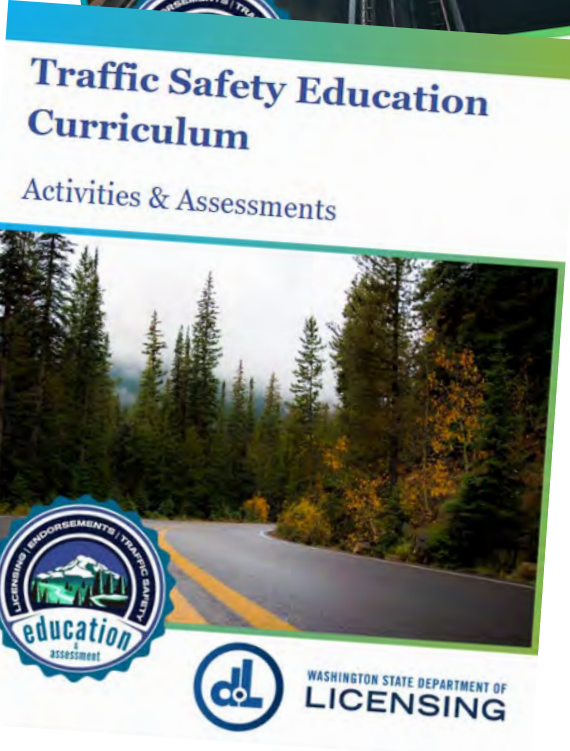
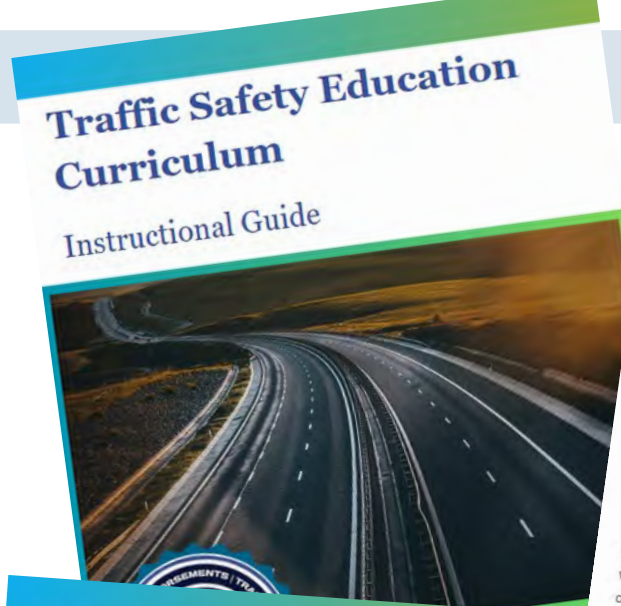




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New Curriculum



This e-learning course is designed for teenagers aged 16-18 who are new to driving and want to master the essentials of safe and responsible driving. By the end of the course, students will understand the process of obtaining and maintaining a driver's license, perform essential vehicle safety checks and laws and defensive driving techniques. The course combines practical knowledge with interactive scenarios to ensure students are well-prepared for real-world driving challenges. It's perfect for...

Defensive Driving for Tr... 6 / 14

When you see a hazard, you should \_\_\_\_\_ and prepare to stop.

down change slow up  
speed lanes

DRAG IN THE MISSING WORDS

### Vehicle Safety Presentation Outline

I. Introduction

Review of the importance of vehicle safety; pre-drive and post-drive safety checks.

Basic Vehicle Components

Components: Wheel, Seat belts, Seat adjustments, Rear View Mirror, brake, Gear selector, Ignition switch.

Components: Wind Wipers, Windows, Tires, Head and tail lights, Mirrors, Battery, Engine, Fluid and Oil reservoirs.

Safety Checks

Driving Environment: Checking surroundings for hazards; Assessing traffic conditions and weather impact; Performing a Safety Check: Regular checks of tires, lights, and brakes; Importance of addressing common issues promptly.

Occupant Protection Systems: Consistent use of seat belts, child seats, and airbags; Overview of SRS Airbag functionality.

### LESSON PLAN Template for Instructors

Navigate your lesson with this guide to make time for meaningful engagement.

Summary

Date

Group/Cohort

Main Topic or

Subtopics or k

Materials N

	Vehicle Components	Maneuvers	Behavior & Attitude	Emergency Response	Rules of the Road
100	100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400	400

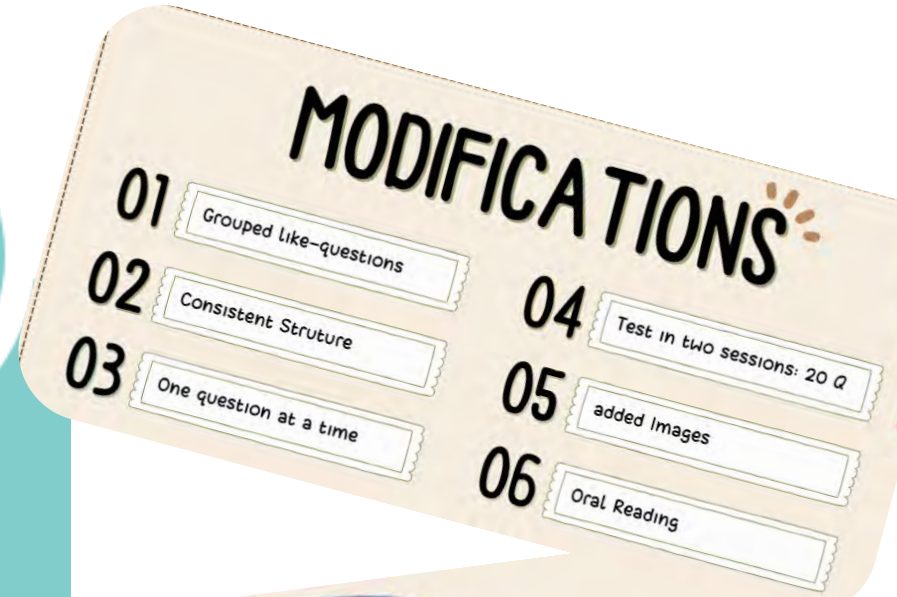


## New Knowledge Exam

Vehicle: operation
Vehicle: occupant protection
Vehicle: blind zones
Vehicle: malfunction
Vehicle: safety technology
Driver: DUI alcohol
Driver: DUI cannabis
Driver: DUI other drugs
Driver: health/emotion/behavior
Driver: attention/perception
Driver: distractions
Driver: Hazards
Road Users: School Bus
Road Users: Large Vehicle
Road Users: Motorcycles
Road Users: Bicycles
Road Users: Pedestrians
Road Users: Emergency
Road: rules
Road: lanes/markings
Road: conditions
Road: signals
Road: intersections
Road: work zones
Road: school zone
Risk: speed
Risk: space/time
Risk: vision
Risk: collisions
Risk: law enforcement



## New Assessment Accommodations







### WASHINGTON Instructor Guide



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING  
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### Instructor Training Series

START COURSE



This comprehensive driver educator training course, offered by the Department of Licensing (DOL), is designed to prepare aspiring instructors for certification. Please note, completing this course is a requirement for certification.

### Defensive Driving Hazard Simulator

Watch a video → Identify hazards → Click on them  
Hazards 23 Length 2:17 min Level Easy New York, NY

The hazards you'll need to identify:

- 10 Vehicles
- 6 Signs/traffic lights
- 5 Pedestrians
- 2 Road markup

## Engaging Students Through Effective Questioning

Driving is a complex task that requires a deep understanding of rules, quick thinking, and the ability to anticipate and react to various situations. One of the most effective ways to ensure drivers are well-prepared for the road is through the use of both low-level and high-level questioning techniques. These techniques not only help in retaining essential information but also in developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for safe driving.

### THE POWER OF LOW-LEVEL QUESTIONS

Low-level questions are essential for building a solid foundation of knowledge. They focus on recall, recognition, and simple understanding, which are critical for mastering the basics of driving.

#### RECALL QUESTIONS

Recall questions prompt drivers to remember specific facts. For instance:

- "What is the speed limit in a residential area?" Such questions ensure that drivers understand essential speed regulations, which are crucial for safety in areas with high traffic.

#### RECOGNITION QUESTIONS

Recognition questions...

## Elevate Your Traffic Safety Education: The Power of Self-Assessment

Hey there, traffic safety educators! Are you ready to take your teaching to the next level? Professional development is a journey, and self-assessment is one of the best vehicles to drive you there. Let's dive into the importance of self-assessment, walk through a step-by-step guide on how to do it, and explore how to use the results for your growth!

### Why Self-Assessment Matters

Self-assessment is like looking in the rearview mirror - it helps you see where you've been and guides you on where to go next. By evaluating your performance, you can identify strengths to leverage and areas needing improvement. It's all about becoming the best version of yourself for your learners.

### Step-by-Step Guide to Conducting a Self-Assessment

#### 1. Reflect on Your Performance

Take a moment to reflect on your performance in each competency area. Be honest with yourself - self-awareness is key.

#### 2. Rate Yourself

Use a simple scale to rate your performance:

- Needs Improvement
- Meets Expectations



# Driver Skills Exam Modernization

- **Evidence-Based Assessment:** Replacing subjective scoring with an objective, competency-based evaluation aligned with modern driving challenges.
- **Improved Accessibility:** Addressing equity and accessibility concerns through research and implementation of best practices for accommodations and language access.
- **Data-Driven Monitoring:** Implementing rigorous tracking and monitoring of program effectiveness to ensure continuous improvement.

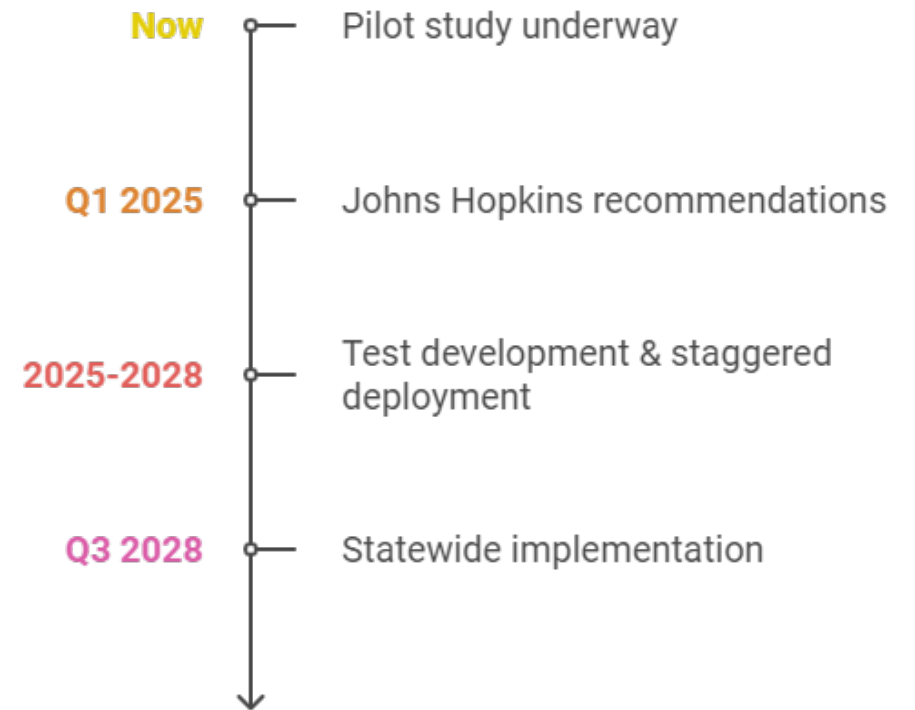




# The Driver Skills Exam Modernization Project is expected to:

- Improve the identification of high-risk novice drivers.
- Enhance the consistency and objectivity of the examination process.
- Increase accessibility and equity in driver testing.
- Contribute to a reduction in crashes and fatalities involving novice drivers.

## Project Timeline



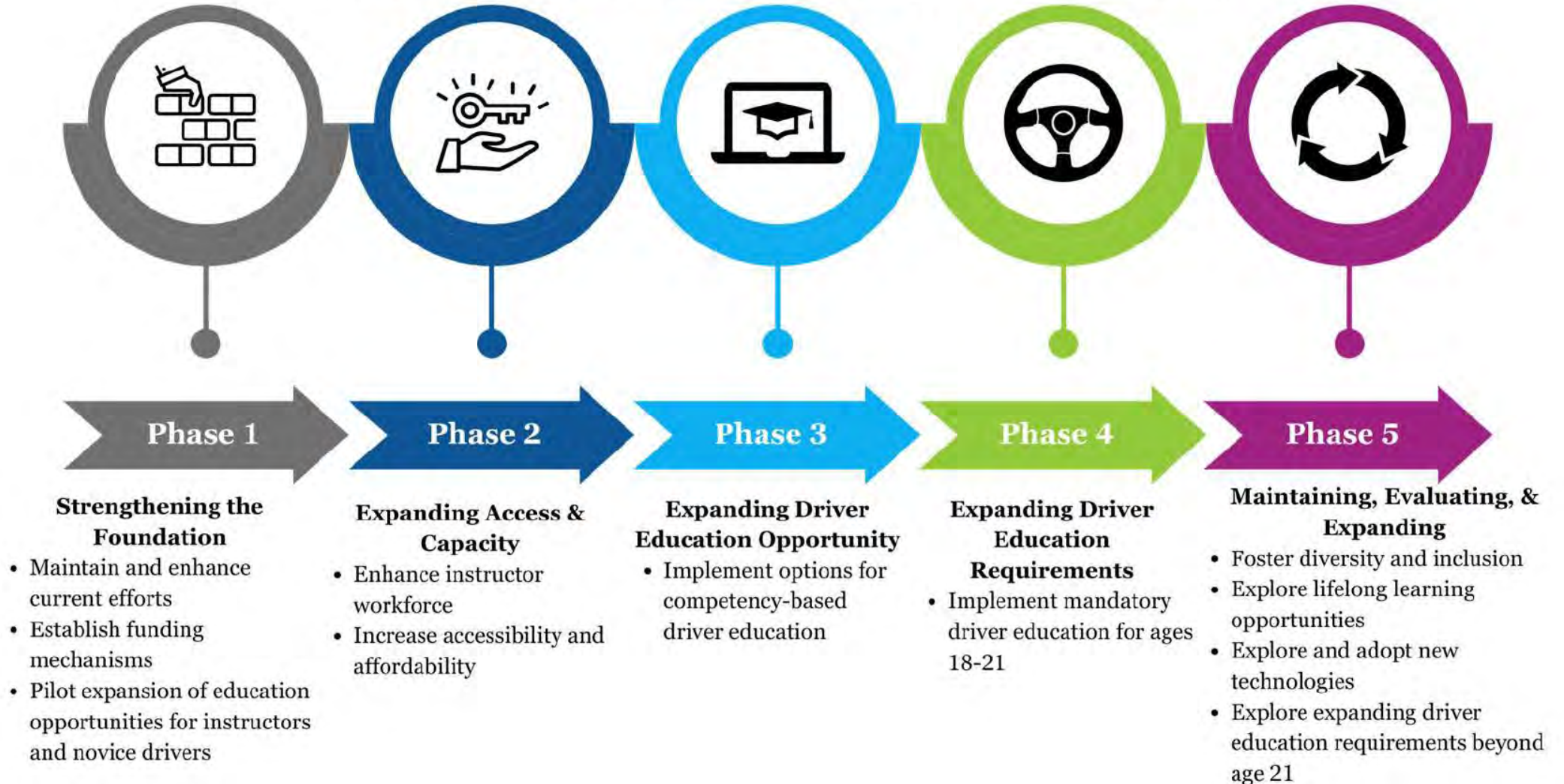


# Young Driver Safety ESSB5583

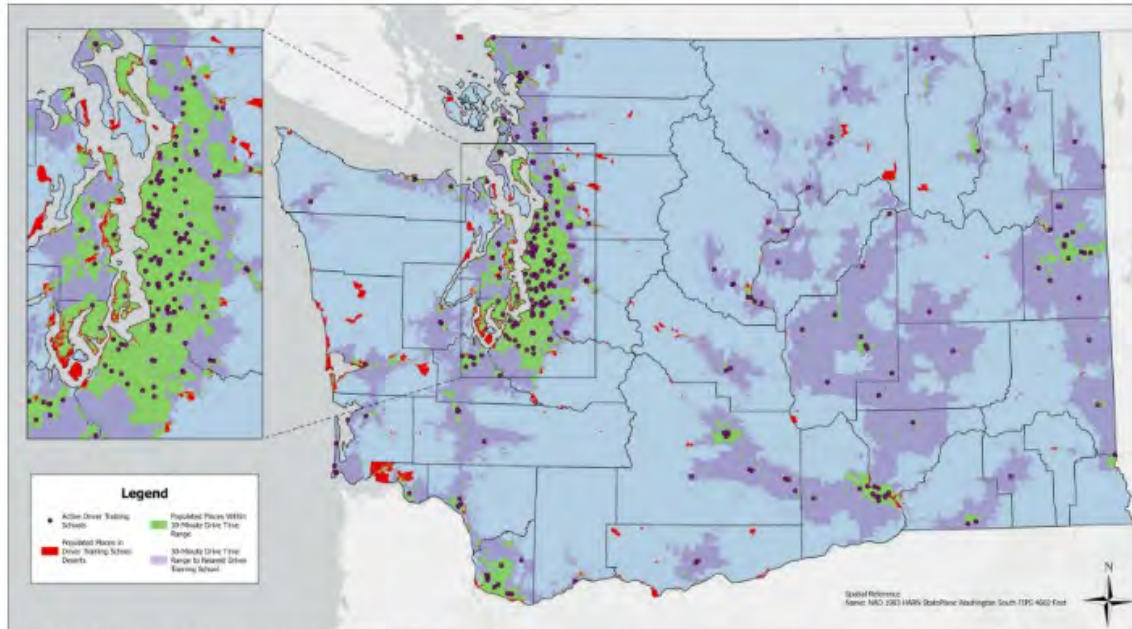




## Phased Approach to Young Driver Safety



**Figure 7: Identifying Driving School Deserts Using 30-Minute Drive Times to Nearest Schools (2024)**

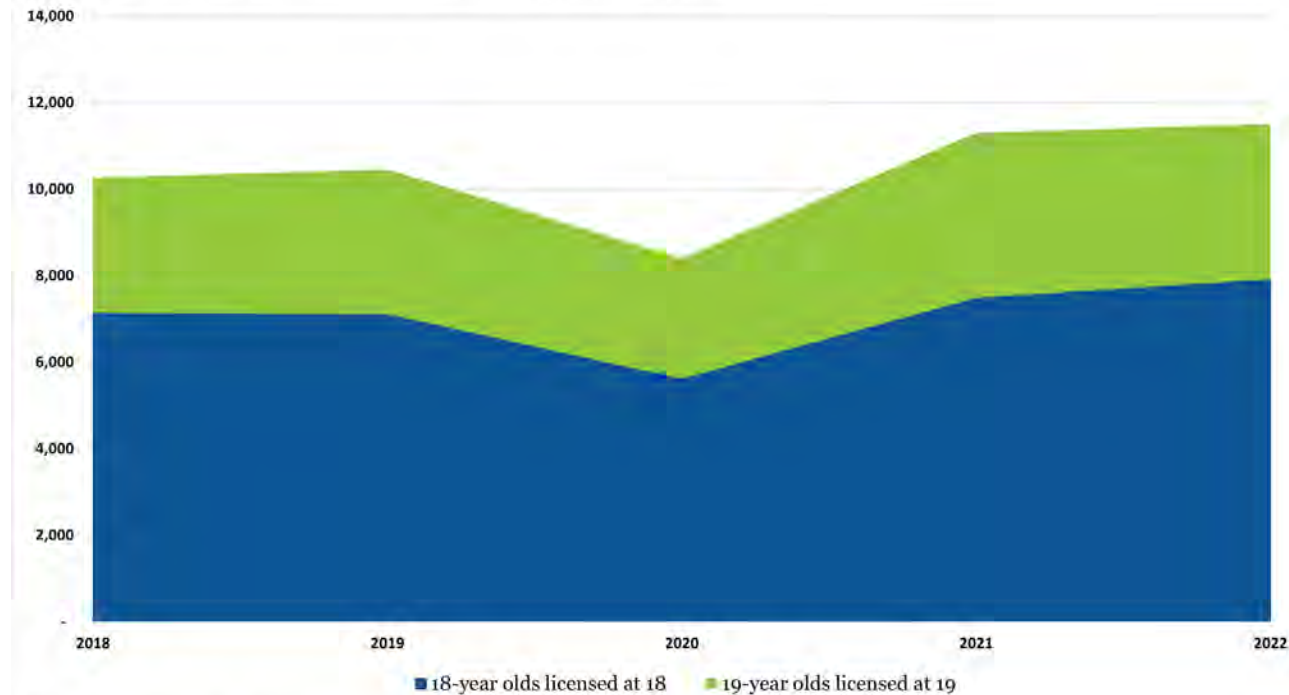


Data Sources: Washington State DOL; ArcGIS Pro  
 Shapefile Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Washington State Office of Financial Management

### Legend

- Active Driver Training Schools
- Populated Places in Driver Training School Deserts
- Populated Places Within 30-Minute Drive Time Range
- 30-Minute Drive Time Range to Nearest Driver Training School

**Figure 2: Point-in-Time Counts of Licensed Drivers\* by Year**



Note. Data source: DOL, DRIVES licensing data

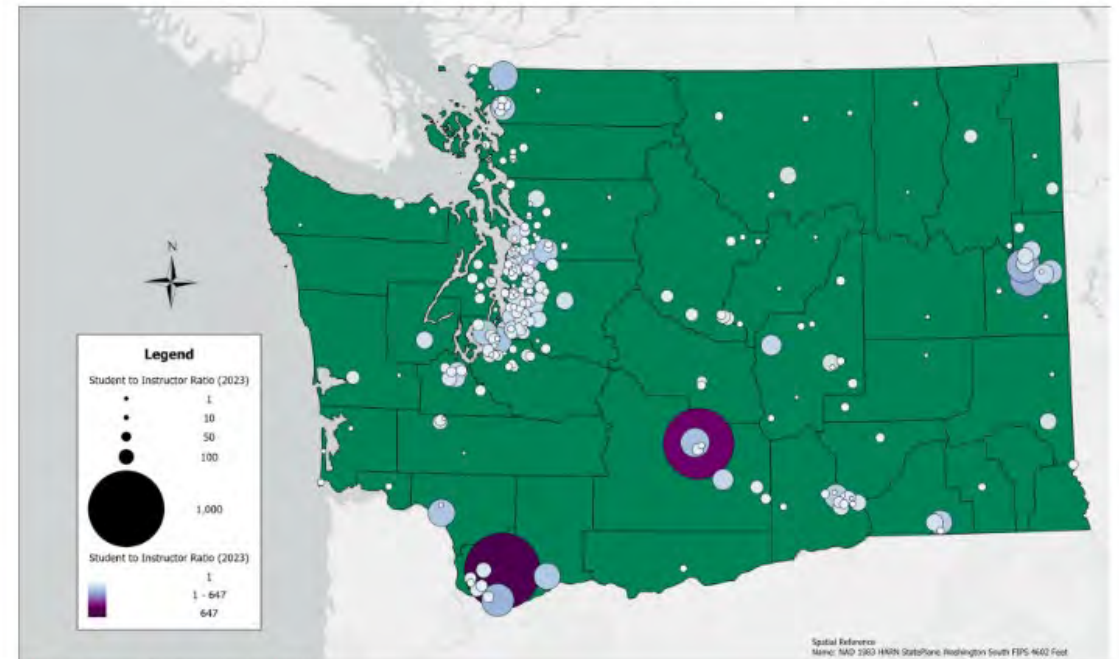
\*Only includes drivers who are receiving their first license in WA State (excludes out of state transfers).





- If the driver education age requirement expands, WSU projects a needed industry growth of 60%. At present the industry is not equipped to handle this growth.
- Supporting students:
  - Expanding access to driver education
  - Funding for identified areas of high need.
- Supporting driver instructors:
  - Driver instructor education program in WA.
  - Competency-based licensure, or minimally align requirements for private and public.

Figure 4: Student to Instructor Ratio by School Census Tract (2023)



Data Source: Washington State DOL

Shapefile Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management



Implementation Plan Initiative	Effectiveness	Cost	Time (in yrs.)	Legislation	Appropriation
Maintain Appropriations for Traffic Safety Education	★★★★★	\$\$	<1	No	Yes
Establish Traffic Safety Education Fund	★★★★★	\$	<1	Yes	No
Traffic Safety Educator Training and Certification	★★★★★	\$\$	<1	No	Yes
Revenue Generation for Traffic Safety Education	★★★★★	\$\$\$	1-3	Yes	Yes*
Driver Education Desert TSE Pilot	★★★	\$\$	1-3	Yes	Yes
Learning Management System	★★★★★★	\$\$	1-3	No	Yes
Align OSPI and DOL Requirements for Instructors	★★★★	\$\$\$	3-5	Yes	Yes*
Pilot Refresher Course	★	\$\$	1-3	No	Yes

*Note.* Depending on recommendation selected.





- Driver education desert pilot:
  - Use a platform that allows for synchronous and asynchronous training, mentor-facilitated coaching, and the use of telematics via mobile application.
- Driver Instructor Series and DTS Business Guidance:
  - Provide private and public driver instructors with access to education for licensure.
  - Support new DTS owners in opening a business by demystifying the process.
- Refresher course:
  - Pilot hazard-based perception and risk mitigation training.





# Older Driver Safety





# Improving Older Driver Safety - Feasibility Study

*DOL was directed to develop a comprehensive plan aimed at improving older driver safety.*

## **The legislation required the plan to include at least four primary components:**

- Comprehensive review of DOL policies surrounding older drivers and medically at-risk drivers
- Feasibility analysis of establishing a medical advisory board to advise DOL on policy considerations, impacts on driving privileges, and an appeals process for drivers whose privileges are revoked or restricted
- Recommended assessment tool for DOL to better assess a driver's potential risk to themselves or others
- Information on how each component of the plan improves older driver safety while preserving maximum level of older driver independence and privacy



# Improving Older Driver Safety - Feasibility Study

## Key Findings from the report submitted by WSU:

- Older drivers have lower risk of crash involvement compared to young and middle-aged drivers. There is elevated risk for fatal crash involvement for drivers age 80+.
- Older drivers have a higher crash risk per mile driven, but lower risk in terms of crash involvement per licensed driver. This is likely due to older drivers self-regulating (choosing to drive less often, shorter distances, or not drive at night).
- Fatal injury crash rates in Washington State have increased between 2018 to 2022, but the increase is largely driven by teen (16-17 year old) drivers.



# Improving Older Driver Safety - Feasibility Study

## **Recommendations:**

- Implement changes to DOL policies and counter assessments
- Establish a permanent medical advisory board at DOL
- Establish an Older & Medically At-Risk Driver Program at DOL





**“ Helping every Washington resident  
LIVE, WORK, DRIVE, AND THRIVE. ”**



# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



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