

Section 8-12.1. Driver Education High School Offering; 90-minute parent/student driver education component; fees established by School Board; requirements to participate; valid license required for driving instructors; superintendent to make report to Division of Motor Vehicles. — A. ~~Suffolk Public Schools shall offers a program in the high schools of driver education in the safe operation of motor vehicles. And knowledge of rules, regulations and laws may be offered in the high schools. The program shall includes consist of classroom training and “behind the wheel training”. The program shall also include instruction concerning:~~

- (i) alcohol and drug abuse,
- (ii) aggressive driving,
- (iii) motorcycle awareness,
- (iv) the dangers of distracted driving and speeding
- (v) ~~distracted driving~~, and organ and tissue donor awareness,
- (vi) fuel-efficient driving practices and
- (vii) 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.

B. The program also includes an additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component as part of the classroom portion of the driver education curriculum. However, no student who is (1) at least 18 years of age, (2) an emancipated minor, or (3) an unaccompanied minor who is not in the physical custody of the student’s parent or guardian is required to participate in the parent/student driver education component. The parent/student driver program emphasizes (i) parental responsibilities regarding juvenile driver behavior, (ii) juvenile driving restrictions pursuant to the Code of Virginia, (iii) the dangers of driving while intoxicated and underage consumption of alcohol, and (iv) the dangers of distracted driving.

C. The 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 School Board may waive the fee or surcharge in whole or in part for those students it determines cannot pay the fee or surcharge.

D. 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.

E. 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 months.

F. At the beginning of each school year and thereafter as necessary, the school superintendent shall report to the Department of Motor Vehicles the name and driver's license number of all persons providing instruction in driver education for Suffolk Public Schools. (Adopted January 12, 1995; Revised March 12, 2009; Ordinance Number 08/09-33; Effective July 1, 2009; Revised April 10, 2013; Ordinance Number 12/13-70; Effective Date: July 1, 2013; Revised December 14, 2017; Ordinance Number 17/18-24; Effective Date: December 14, 2017; Ordinance Number: 22/23-9, Revised/Effective Date: November 10, 2022)

Legal Authority - Virginia Code §§ 22.1-205, 46.2-334, 46.2-340 (1950), as amended, and 8 VAC 20-340-10, 8 VAC 20-720-80.