The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has developed the following driver education program as a means of standardizing driver education throughout the state. The driver education program is comprised of the Driver Education Curriculum, Driver Practicum Curriculum, the Parent Curriculum, and a final examination. As of September 1, 2007 it is mandatory that the RMV program be taught in Professional Driving School Programs and Public and Private High School Programs. The aim of the new program is to ensure consistency among driver education programs by standardizing the knowledge, skills and ability of each student driver. It is the RMV’s hope that driver education be a comprehensive learning experience that will lead to a reduction in the number of crashes by junior operators.

A driver education program must consist of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction. The RMV curriculum consists of 15, two hour modules. The modules are comprised of topic matter that will provide students the skills necessary to obtain a driver’s license and to become conscientious drivers. The RMV recommends that the modules be taught in the order they appear. If the instructor chooses to vary from the recommended program, the order in which the modules will be taught must be documented and made available upon request.

Each student must be taught the material contained in all 15 modules. If a student misses a class, the student must make up the module that was missed or the course hours will be considered incomplete. Material in the modules may be taught through instruction, guest speakers, textbook or video presentation. A full list of recommended supplemental materials for the program can be found in Appendix A.

A driver education program must also consist of 12 hours on-road instruction conducted by a certified driver education instructor and 6 hours of observation. A Driver Practicum Curriculum outlining the on-road skills that should be taught is found in Appendix B. Driver education instructors must be fully certified in both classroom and on-road instruction. An instructor meeting the minimum certification requirements must complete a driving instructor training program and pass a written driving instructor examination.

A final examination must be offered to students upon completion of the course. The final examination should test a student’s comprehension of the topics covered in the driver’s education program.

A parent/guardian driver education class must be included within the driver education program. Parents/Guardians should be educated in the content of the driver education curriculum, the junior operator law, the restrictions a junior operator license carries and the driving skills and behaviors their children should be learning throughout the driver education experience. A sample curriculum for a parent/guardian course can be found in Appendix C. A parents/guardian’s guide to the junior operator law appears on the RMV website at www.massrmv.com.

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Module 1 – Introduction to Driver’s Education

Revised 05/2017

Introduction to Driver’s Education

Purpose
The introduction module is intended to provide an explanation of the driver’s education program content and expectations. The instructor should identify the basic elements of becoming a successful driver and provide an overview of the Massachusetts driver’s license and the license process.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:
- Explain the structure of the driver’s education program and their responsibilities for successful completion.
- List the basic driving fundamentals
- Identify the impact of decision making on driving records
- Define the Massachusetts license classes and restrictions
- Outline the procedure for obtaining a license

Measurement
- Issue a personality indicator instrument so students can identify the type of driver they might be.
- Facilitate a discussion with the students on decision-making and gauge their understanding of how decisions impact their driving.

Topic Outline
1. Student Responsibilities, Class Schedule & Syllabus
   Structure of Class, Administrative Requirements

2. Value of Taking a Driver Education Course

3. Driving Fundamentals
   - Control
   - Responsibility
   - Recognition
   - Anticipation
   - Compensation
   - Courtesy
4. Importanace of Good Decision Making

5. Driving is a Privilege not a Right

6. Consequences of Poor Decision Making (Overview; See Module 14)
   - Lifetime look back
   - Out of state violation count on MA record
   - Injury
   - Criminal vs. civil infractions

7. License Classes and Restrictions
   a. Learner’s Permit
   b. Junior Operator License (JOL)
   c. Full License

8. Overview of Road Test
   a. Specialized Features in Vehicle Not Allowed During Road Test (see “Passenger Vehicle Test Procedures” section of Chapter One of the Driver’s Manual)
   b. 72 Hour Road Test Cancellation Policy
   c. Total Number of Road Tests Allowed in One Year
Module 2 – Signs, Signals and Road Markings

Purpose
This module provides basic education on the concept of the transportation system and explains the road markings that new drivers must be able to read and understand in order to apply this information to a driving situation. This module is intended to identify roadway communication tools that drivers must be able to comprehend and be responsive to.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, students should be able to:

- List the various types of traffic signs
- Recognize the common roadway signs and explain each sign’s purpose
- Identify how a driver must respond to different signals
- Explain the purpose of the roadway markings and how a safe driver adheres to the markings

Measurement
- Issue a pre-test about signs, signals, and road markings at the beginning of this module then issue a post-test at the end of this module.

Topic Outline
1. The Highway Transportation System
   A. What is the Highway Transportation System (HTS)?
   B. Highways and Their Design
      Intersection with Streets and Roads
   C. Federal & State Requirements

2. Traffic Signs
   A. Stop and Yield Signs
   B. Regulatory Signs
      Action Required
      Speed Limit Signs
      Railroad Cross barks
   C. Warning Signs
      Action Required
      School Area Signs
      Railroad Warning Signs
   D. Guide Signs
      Function of Guide Signs
Route Markers
Destination and Mileage Signs
Roadside Services Signs
Recreational Services Signs
International Signs in Use in the United States
E. Road Work Warnings

3. Traffic Signals
   A. Motor Vehicle Signals
   B. Pedestrian Signals
   C. Traffic Officer’s Directions
   D. Lane-Use Lights

4. Roadway Markings
   A. White Lane Lines
      Broken, Solid, Double Solid
   B. Yellow Lane Lines
      Broken, Double: One Solid, One Broken, Double: Both Solid
   C. Arrows
   D. Bicycle
   E. Crosswalks
   F. Stop Lines
   G. Railroad Crossing

5. School Zones

6. Crossing Guard Safety (from “Crossing Guards” section of Chapter Four of the Driver’s Manual)

7. Construction Zones
Module 3 – Understanding the Vehicle and Its Controls

Purpose
This module provides an orientation of the basic vehicle components and the control systems drivers must be familiar with in order to control a vehicle. The subject matter is intended to educate new drivers about the importance of understanding and effectively using vehicle components and to build routine habits necessary to being a safe driver.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Locate and label basic vehicle components
- Explain the importance of communication devices and its affect on driving
- Create pre-driving procedure checklist
- Define the two types of transmissions

Measurement
- Have each student create a pre-driving checklist.
- Have each student complete a vehicle survey of the components of the vehicle they will drive the most.

Topic Outline
1. Transmission Types
   A. Automatic Transmission
   B. Manual Transmission

2. Basic Vehicle Components
   A. Control Devices
      - Ignition Switch
      - Selector Lever for Automatic Transmission
      - Gearshift for Manual Transmission
      - Clutch Pedal for Manual Transmission
      - Steering Wheel
      - Accelerator (Gas Pedal)
      - Cruise Control
      - Brake Pedal
      - Parking Brake
B. Comfort Devices
   Seat-Position Controls
   Steering Wheel
   Air Conditioner and Heater
   Air Vents

3. Visibility & Vehicle Safety
   A. Devices that Aid Visibility
      Lights
      Windshield Wipers and Washer
      Sun Visors
      Defroster (Defogger)
      Rearview and Side-View Mirrors
      Automatic Emergency Braking
      Backup Camera
      Blind Spot Warning
      Lane Departure Warning
      Telematics
   B. Restraint Systems
      Safety Belts
      Air Bags
      Head Restraints
      Door Locks
      Structural Features
   C. Anti-Theft Devices
      Ignition Buzzer
      Locks
      Alarms and Other Antitheft Devices

4. Instruments & Controls
   Speedometer and Odometer
   Fuel Gauge
   Alternator Gauge or Warning Light
   Temperature Gauge or Warning Light
   Oil-Pressure Gauge or Warning Light
   Brake Warning Light (ABS)
   Check Engine Light
   Other Dashboard Lights
   Tire-Pressure Monitors

5. Communication Devices
   Taillights
   Directional (Turn) Signals
   Emergency Flashers (Hazard Lights)
   Parking Lights
   Horn

6. Pre-Driving Procedure
   A. External Checks
      View the Surrounding Area
      Tires
Importance of proper pressure

Proper wear pattern
Sufficient tread depth for safety (minimum 2/32 inch)

Vehicle Body
Exterior Lights: Headlights, Directional Lights, Brake Lights, Back-Up Lights and Tail Lights
Exhaust System
Fluid Levels
Under the Hood

B. Internal Checks
   Dash Board
      Fluid Level Alerts
      Fuel Level
   Brakes
      Types of Brakes: ABS and other brake systems
      Parking Brake
   Safety Belts
   Spare Tire & tire changing equipment
   First-Aid Kit (not required)

7. Discussion with students about how to safely change a tire.
Module 4 – Basic Driving Skills

Purpose
This module instructs students on the basic driving skills necessary to begin driving. It is intended that students learn the proven successful methods for operating a vehicle, navigating turns, moving and stopping and incorporating the use of the necessary vehicle control and communicating devices.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Identify the initial steps a driver always takes as they prepare to drive.
- Demonstrate effective methods of holding a steering wheel, turning the steering wheel, and steering in reverse
- Describe how to use the various mirrors while driving and how they assist in navigation
- List the steps drivers must follow when preparing to turn or change lanes
- Explain how to control your vehicle using acceleration, deceleration and braking.

Measurement
- Issue a pre-test and a post-test that addresses the key components of basic driving skills.

Topic Outline
1. Preparing to Drive

2. Starting, Moving & Stopping
   - Moving Into Traffic
     - Advance Planning
     - Visibility
     - Time
     - Space

3. Steering
   - Forward and Through Turns
     - Holding the Steering Wheel
     - Tracking and Steering
     - Steering in a Straight Line
     - Steering to Turn
     - Hand-over-hand steering
Push-pull-feed steering
Steering in Reverse

4. Use of Mirrors

5. Use of Headlights

6. Signaling

7. Turning Procedures
   A. Executing a Right Turn
      Preparing to Make a Right Turn
      Check for other motorists, bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians that may be approaching on the right. Choose the Correct Lane
      Communicate Intentions to Other Motorists (and pedestrians and bicyclists)
      Position the Vehicle

   B. Executing a Left Turn
      Preparing for a Left Turn
      Check for other motorists, bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians
      Choose the Correct Lane
      Communicate Intentions to Other Motorists (and pedestrians and bicyclists)
      Position the Vehicle

      Turning Left from a Two-Way Street onto a Two-Way Street
      Turning Left from a Two-Way Street onto a One-Way Street
      Turning Left from a One-Way Street onto a One-Way Street
      Turning Left from a One-Way Street onto a Two-Way Street

8. Backing up
   A. Straight
   B. While turning

9. Executing a Reverse in Direction
   Turnabouts
   Two-Point Turns
   Backing into a Driveway
   Heading into a driveway on the left
   Heading into a driveway on the right
   Three-Point Turns
   U-Turns

10. Parking the Vehicle
    A. Angle Parking and Perpendicular Parking
       Right-or-Left-Angle Parking (show illustrations)
       Perpendicular Parking (show illustrations)
    B. Exiting an Angled or a Perpendicular Parking Space
    C. Parallel Parking
D. Parking in Other Areas
   Parking in a driveway
   Parking in a garage
   Parking on a hill
   Parking downhill with a curb
   Parking downhill without a curb
   Parking uphill with a curb
   Parking uphill without a curb
   Restrictions on parking

11. Changing Lanes
   The Safest Way to Change Lanes
      Advance Planning
      Visibility
      Scanning
      Time
      Space
      Making the Change

12. Passing
   A. Decision making process
      Road Signs and Pavement Markings
      Weather Conditions
      Relative Speeds of the Two Vehicles
   B. Passing Another Vehicle
   C. Being Passed

13. Acceleration and Braking
   A. Acceleration, Deceleration, and Speed
      Acceleration and Deceleration Rates Vary
      Maintaining a Constant Speed
      Monitoring Your Speed

14. Green Driving Tips (From Chapter Six of Driver’s Manual)
Purpose
This module is intended to teach students about the rules of the road and the proper observation of these rules. The students have accumulated knowledge of driving through observation of family and friends, and it is important that they understand their responsibilities to effectively obey rules of the road, even the commonly ignored ones.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:
- Identify the different types of speed limits and how they relate to the basic speed laws
- Explain what rotaries and roundabouts are and describe how to drive in single lane rotaries, multiple lane rotaries and roundabouts and how to pass in these situations
- Define right of way and the right of way rules for all users of the road including vehicles, pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists
- Provide examples of how to judge time and distance and how this relates to negotiating intersections and passing

Measurement
- Provide diagrams about intersections, roundabouts, rotaries and right of way scenarios and have the students label them appropriately depending on the road situation.
- Test student’s memory of the different types of speed limits and related speed laws.
- Provide a multiple-choice test about basic operating laws of Massachusetts.

Topic Outline
1. Basic Operating Laws of Massachusetts
   - Understanding the Law
   - Getting a Driver’s License
   - Violations and the Point System
   - Certificate of Title
   - Vehicle Registration
   - Insurance
   - Inspection Sticker
2. Speed Limits
   A. Discuss the different types of Speed Limits
      Fixed Speed Limits
      Advisory Speed Limits
      Day and Night Speed Limits
   B. What Are Basic Speed Laws

3. Negotiating Intersections
   A. Controlled Intersections
   B. Uncontrolled Intersections

4. Railroad Crossings
   Safely Crossing a Railroad
      Determining When It is Safe to Cross
      Staying Alert
      Do Not Panic If the Vehicle Stalls
   Winter-Time Railroad Crossings
      Road Salt and Railroad Crossings

5. Rotaries and Roundabouts
   Describe the use of rotaries
   Single-Lane Rotaries
   Multiple Lane Rotaries
   Quarter-Turn
   Continue Straight Ahead
   Three-Quarter Turn
   U-Turn
   Roundabouts
   Rules for Passing, including Passing on the Left, Passing on the Right, and Being Passed.

6. Determining the Right of Way
   A. What is Right-of-Way?
   B. When Should You Yield the Right-of-Way?
   C. Discuss the Right-of-Way Rules for:
      Pedestrians
      Funeral Processions (supplement this section based on new material in Chapter Four of the Driver’s Manual)
      Intersections Not Controlled by Signs or Signals
      Four-Way Stops
      Turning Left
      Private Roads, Driveways and Unpaved Roads
      Throughways
      Intersection of Single, Two-Lane and Multiple-Lane Roads, and Rotaries

7. Safe Driver Law
   A. Mobile Phones
   B. Texting
   C. Three Surchargeable Events in Two Years Suspension

8. Emergency Vehicles “Move Over” Law
Module 6 – Making Safe Driving Decisions

Purpose
This module teaches new drivers important strategies and practices they must know and use each time they drive so that they are a safe driver at all times. This section also educates new drivers about how to identify aggressive drivers and their behaviors so that they can start to be aware of what to do when confronted with an aggressive driver.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Define the SIPDE concept and explain how it relates to driving
- Define the Smith system and explain how it relates to driving
- Identify five safe driving habits
- Explain the purpose of seatbelts and discuss the consequence of not wearing a seatbelt
- List five behaviors of aggressive drivers and what you should do as a driver if confronted by this type of driver

Measurement

- Have students demonstrate through skits how to apply the SIDPE and SMITH systems.
- Have students record in their observation journals five examples each of safe and unsafe driving practices they have observed with friends or family. Students should share these observations with the class.

Topic Outline

1. Understanding and Applying the SIPDE/IPDE Process

   Discuss the SIPDE concept and how does it relates to driving?

   SEARCH
   IDENTIFY
   PREDICT
   DECIDE
EXECUTE

Discuss the application of the SIPDE Process.

2. Understanding and Applying the Smith System

What is the Smith System, and how does it relate to driving?
- Aim High and Look Ahead, Not Down
- Keep Your Eyes Moving
- Get the Big Picture
- Make Sure Others See You
- Leave Yourself a Way Out or a Margin of Safety

3. Safe Driving Habits (Practices)

4. Seatbelts

5. Passenger Vehicle Safety

6. Aggressive Driving

   A. Aggressive Driving in Massachusetts
   B. How to Identify Aggressive Drivers
      Aggressive Drivers typically exhibit several of the following tendencies:
      - Cutting people off
      - Exceed the speed limit
      - Switch lanes without signaling
      - Tailgate (follow too closely)
      - Run red lights
      - Prevent other motorists from passing them
   C. What to do When Confronted by an Aggressive Driver
      - Attempt to get out of his or her way
      - Do not challenge them
      - Avoid eye contact
      - Ignore obscene gestures
      - Wear your safety belt, it will help keep you in control of your vehicle and protect you in the event of a crash
      - Control your anger and do not let the situation escalate
      - Do not underestimate the other driver’s potential for aggression
      - To report an aggressive driver to police, call 911

7. Road Rage
   Criminal Consequences
Module 7 – Sharing the Road

Purpose
This module educates students about sharing the road with users other than vehicles such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. The intention is to provide information about safe ways to share the road and drive with other roadway users as well as unexpected changes.

Objectives
- Identify the other users of the road and explain how to interact safely
- Explain the unique situations encountered with commercial vehicles and how to drive through them safely
- Recognize the different school bus and 7D vehicle signals and explain how a driver must react to those signals

Measurement
- Have students take a pre-test and post-test regarding important aspects of sharing the road and the responsibilities of pedestrians, motorcyclists, bicyclists and drivers.
- Quiz students on the appropriate driver responses to school buses, 7D vehicles, and emergency vehicles.

Topic Outline
1. Pedestrians
   A. Pedestrians Pose Problems for Drivers
      Jaywalking
      Children
      Adults
   B. Avoiding Collisions With Pedestrians
   C. Responsibilities Pedestrians Have
   D. White canes and guide dogs should be associated with visually impaired individuals. Drivers should use increased caution when driving in the proximity to a potentially visually impaired individual.

2. Motorcyclists

3. Bicyclists, Mopeds & Scooters
A. Recognizing and Reducing the Risk of Problems Caused by Cyclists
   Watching Out for Cyclists
   Dangerous Roadway Conditions
   Lack of Protection
   Failure to Obey Traffic Laws
   Irresponsible Drivers
What Special Responsibilities do Bicyclists Have?
   New Bicycle Safety Law
B. What Special Responsibilities Do Motorcyclists Have?

4. Interacting with Commercial Motor Vehicles
   A. Safely Sharing the Road with Other Vehicles
      Trucks and Tractor-Trailers
      Visibility
      Time
      Space
      Buses
      Small Cars
      Other Kinds of Vehicles
      Emergency Vehicles
      Snowmobiles (Not allowed to travel along road in Massachusetts)
      Sport Utility Vehicles
      Ice Cream Trucks
      Maintenance Vehicles
   B. Dealing With Slow-Moving Vehicles

5. School buses and 7D (School Pupil Transport) vehicles

6. Emergency Vehicles and EMS

7. Animals
   A. Avoid Collisions With Animals
      Small Animals/Large Animals
      Using SIPDE to Avoid Collisions with Animals
   B. Horse drawn carriages and vehicles
Purpose
This module teaches students that in addition to employing safe driving habits it is also important to understand how natural law effects driving and how to counteract the result of natural laws. This module begins the development of advanced driving skills needed to navigate certain driving situations.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Define natural laws and explain their impact on driving and a driver
- List the types of skids and the suggested solutions for controlling or regaining control of the vehicle
- Identify the stopping distance needed in various driving situations
- Explain how speed control and knowledge of natural laws can help avoid a collision
- Provide examples of the impact of collisions

Measurement
- Have students complete a post-test that contains driving scenarios learned in this module and have them provide the answer based on applying what they learned in this module. It should include:
  - Scenarios about stopping distance
  - Scenarios about steering in different skid situations and how to regain control
  - List examples of natural law

Topic Outline

1. Natural Laws and the Movement of Vehicles
   What Are Natural Laws?
   - Inertia
   - Friction
   - Tire Pressure
   - Tire Condition
   - Rain
   - Ice and snow
   - Road Condition
   - Momentum
Kinetic Energy
Acceleration
Braking
Gravity
Center of Gravity

2. Steering and Braking
   A. Factors and Natural Laws Affecting Steering
   B. Natural Laws Affecting Steering Around a Curve
   C. How Gravity and the Contour of the Road Affect Steering
      Banked Roads
      Crowned Roads
   D. How Natural Laws Influence Braking Distance
      Factors Affecting Braking Distance
      Speed
      Condition of the vehicle
      Condition of the road
      Hills and mountains

3. Controlling Skids
   A. What Can Make A Vehicle Skid?
      Reduced Traction
      Changing Speed Too Quickly
      Changing Direction Too Quickly
      Understeering and Oversteering
   B. Kinds of Skids
      Review Causes and Corrections for Specific Skid Types
      A braking skid
      A power skid
      A cornering skid
      A blowout skid
      Responding to a skid

4. Impact and Restraint Systems

5. ABS and How they differ from other braking systems

6. Gravity and Energy of Motion

7. Friction and Traction

8. Stopping Distances
   A. Using Speed Control to Avoid a Collision
      Accelerating
      Braking
   B. How Knowledge of Natural Laws Can Help to Avoid a Collision
      Steering to Avoid a Collision
      Controlled Off-Road Recovery
   C. How to Minimize the Risk and Consequences of a Collision
      Force of Impact
Speed of the vehicle
Weight of the vehicle
Impact distance
Reducing the Force of Impact
Sand Canisters
Vehicle Features
D. Unavoidable Collisions
  Head-on
  Side
Module 9 – Different Driving Environments

Purpose
This module alerts students to different driving environments and is intended to teach them how to navigate various challenges like changing lanes, driving in urban versus rural areas, driving on hills, mountains and highways, and exiting and entering.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:
- Describe how to manage visibility, time and space in urban, rural, and highway driving
- List the steps to follow when changing lanes
- Explain how to behave when being passed and what to do when passing and being passed.
- Identify the special situations drivers face when driving on a highway and how to enter and exit a highway

Measurement
- Have students take a pre-test and post-test about the various skills they must gain for different driving situations.

Topic Outline
Different driving environments require different considerations.

1. Managing Visibility, Time & Space
   - Managing Visibility
     - Advance Preparations
     - Behind-the-Wheel Actions
   - Managing Time
   - Managing Space
     - Considering Time, Distance and Speed
     - Assessing and Adjusting the Space Around the Vehicle
     - Adjusting the following distance as needed
     - Keeping a three-second distance between vehicles.
     - Whenever possible, try to keep as much as 8 feet on either side of you.
     - If there is insufficient space ahead, behind, or to the side of your vehicle, take prompt action to increase the space.
Response Time When Distracted
Cell
Text

2. Changing Lanes

3. Urban Driving

Special Factors Affecting City Driving
Traffic Density
Numbers of Pedestrians
Intersections
Slow or Irregular Traffic Flow
Lower Speed Limits
Sight Obstructions
Potholes and Other Road Defects
Managing Visibility, Time and Space in City Driving?
Discuss Managing Visibility in the City
Discuss Managing Time in the City
Discuss Managing Space in the City

4. Following and Meeting Traffic

5. Techniques for Driving in Traffic

6. Rural Driving

Special Factors Affecting Driving on Rural Roads
Road Conditions
Higher Speed, Fewer Controls
Slow-Moving Vehicles
Sight Obstructions
Animals and Objects on the Roads
Managing Visibility, Time and Space in Rural Driving
Discuss Managing Visibility in Rural Areas
Discuss Managing Time in Rural Areas
Discuss Managing Space in Rural Areas

7. Passing or Being Passed on Rural Roads

8. Traveling on Hills or Mountains
Driving Uphill and Downhill
Driving Uphill
Automatic transmission
Manual transmission
Driving Downhill
Automatic transmission
Manual transmission
Driving in the Mountains
Special Roadway and Traffic Problems
Effects of Weather and Altitude
9. Highway Driving

   Special Factors Affecting Driving on Multiple-Lane Highways
   Higher Speed Limits
   Limited Entrances and Exits
   Frequent Passing
   Trucks and Other Large Vehicles

   Managing Visibility, Time and Space on Multiple-Lane Highways
   Discuss Managing Visibility on Highways
   Discuss Managing Time on Highways
   Discuss Managing Space on Highways

10. Entering, Driving on or Exiting Highways

11. Passing or Being Passed on the highway

12. Dealing with Stop and Go Traffic

Module 10 – Driving in All Weather Conditions

Purpose
This module will teach students about the effects of weather conditions on driving and how to compensate for less than desirable conditions. It also suggests the best driving practices to account for these sometimes very difficult situations.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Identify five conditions that affect driving
- Describe how to drive safely when light is low and when there is glare from the sun
- List the steps you should follow to manage visibility, time, and space in rain and snow
- Explain how to anticipate and prevent skids and hydroplaning

Measurement
- Have students complete a pre test and posttest about all weather conditions.
- Have students list safe driving strategies for driving in sun glare, wind, fog, rain and snow.

Topic Outline
Different driving environments require different considerations.

1. Reduced Visibility

2. Low Light and Night Driving
   - Low Light Conditions Affect Visibility
   - Driving Safely When the Amount of Light is Low
     - During Dusk and Dawn Hours
     - At Night
     - Using low beams and high beams correctly.
     - Overdriving headlights.
     - Looking beyond headlights

3. Visibility, Bright Light and Glare
Conditions Creating Glare from the Sun
Driving Safely in the Glare from the Sun

4. Reduced Traction

5. Judging Time and Distance
   
a. Minimizing Risk on Different Surface Conditions
   Snow
   Ice
   Rain
   Gravel
   Sand
   Leaves – In addition, discuss dangers of driving into a leaf pile as it may make children or objects less visible.

b. Managing Visibility, Time and Space
   Preparing in advance.
   Allowing for extra margin of safety.
   Driving in the tracks of the vehicle ahead on a wet pavement.
   Giving other drivers plenty of advance notice.
   Staying alert.
   Keeping low-beam headlights on
   Easing the way into turns and curves
   
   Anticipating and Preventing Skids.
   Anticipating and Preventing Hydroplaning

   c. Keeping a Safe Following Distance
   Using the 2-second rule (See Driver’s Manual)

6. Other Hazardous Weather Conditions
   Minimizing Risks in Other Hazardous Weather Conditions
   Fog or Smog
   Sand and Dust
   Wind
Module 11 – Mental and Physical Effects on Driving

Purpose
This module alerts new drivers that their personal mental and physical condition impacts their driving skills. The intent is to describe how changes in emotions and physical conditions can affect driving skills and may cause them to drive unsafely.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- List the ways emotions affect your driving
- Explain the relationship between vision and ability to drive
- Describe how fatigue, long term and short term illnesses affect your driving skills
- Identify four driving distractions and how they affect your driving ability

Measurement

- Provide 10 scenarios related to Mental and Physical conditions effecting driving and have students create the solution to address the problem. The problem could be making a decision to drive or not and what to do if it were to occur while he/she was driving.

Topic Outline

1. Emotions and the Ability to Drive
   - How Emotions Affect Your Driving
     - Inattention
     - Lack of Concentration
     - Emotional Stress
     - Ability to Process Information
     - Aggressive Driving
   - How to Control Your Emotions
     - Maintaining a Responsible Attitude
     - Avoid Triggering Aggressive Driving
     - Identify Troublesome Situations
     - Plan Ahead
     - Expect Mistakes from Others
     - Don’t Drive When Upset or Depressed
Don’t Give in to Negative Peer Pressure
Train Yourself to Always Use the Right Procedure

2. How Vision Effects the Ability to Drive
   Good Vision is Critical to Driving Ability
   Field of Vision
   How to Compensate for Vision Problems
   Poor Depth Perception
   Contrast Sensitivity
   Color Blindness
   Night Blindness

3. Physical Condition and the Ability to Drive
   How Short-Term Illnesses or Injuries Affect Driving
   How Long-Term Physical Factors Affect Driving
   Hearing Loss Can Affect Driving Ability
   Challenges Caused by Physical Factors
   Aging and Chronic Illnesses Affect Driving Ability

4. Fatigue
   How Fatigue Affects Driving Ability
   How Drowsiness Causes Accidents

5. Distractions
   In-Car Distractions and the Effects on Driving
   Out of Car Distractions (e.g. animals)
   How Distractions Hinder Driving Ability
   Vehicle Audio Systems
   Headphones
   [Note: The use of headphones while operating a motor vehicle in Massachusetts is illegal unless such headphones are used for controlling the course of movement of the said vehicle. See M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 13.]
   Cellular Phones
   Include impact of new cell phone and texting laws
   Passengers
   Televisions
   [Note: A television forward of the back of the front seat is illegal in Massachusetts.]
   Other Distractions
Module 12 – The Dangers and Consequences of Alcohol, Drugs & Driving

Revised 05/2017

The Dangers and Consequences of Alcohol, Drugs & Driving

Purpose
This module is intended to teach students about the physical and mental affects alcohol and drugs have on driving skills and the consequences the penalties can have on their life. The loss of license for a period of time is probably the most socially problematic issues for them but in actuality it will also be a substantial financial burden. It is intended to educate them about the science of reduced coordination, reaction time, vision, and decision-making due to substances in the body. This should be used as an opportunity to educate new drivers about the proven scientific research regarding the affects of alcohol, medicines and other drugs on driving skills.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:
- Describe the physical effects of alcohol and drugs and the impact on driving skills
- Identify the myths and facts of alcohol and drugs
- List the individual’s responsibilities regarding drinking and drugged driving.
- State the Massachusetts laws related to BAC, implied consent, and ignition interlock device
- Explain the drunk driving penalties in Massachusetts and the consequences to driving privileges
- Describe what will happen when a driver is stopped for alleged driving under the influence
- Identify the types of drugs that affect driving ability and how they affect driving ability

Measurement
- Have students complete an effects of alcohol and drugs pre-test and then a post-test.
- Have students read about recent alcohol and drugged driving related accidents and have them identify which elements of safe driving may have failed and thus caused the accident.

Topic Outline
Alcohol and the Effects on Driving
The Effects of Alcohol and Drugged Driving
The Individual’s Responsibilities Regarding alcohol and drug use.

Signs of an Impaired Driver

Affect on Driving Ability

Facts about Alcohol, Drugs and Driving

Myths and Facts about Alcohol and Drugs

The Physical Effects of Alcohol and Drugs

Coordination and Reaction Times

Vision, Depth and Distance Perception

Speed Perception

Mental Effects of Alcohol and Drugs

1. Laws Governing Alcohol and Drug Use
   Melanie’s Law
     i. Increased Drunk Driving Penalties
     ii. Ignition Interlock Devices
   Implied Consent Law
   Chemical Test Re
   Penalties and Consequences

2. BATS (Breath Alcohol Test)

3. Chemical Test Refusal (CTR) and its consequences

4. Drugs and the Effects on Driving

   The Types of Drugs that Affect Driving Ability
   The Dangers of Combining Drugs (SYNERGISM)
   Over-the-Counter Drugs
   Prescription Drugs
   Depressants
   Stimulants
   Hallucinogens
   Marijuana
   LSD and PCP
   Narcotics

5. Clarification that Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Marijuana is Still Illegal
   (from the “Illegal Drugs, Medicine, and Other Controlled Substances” section of Chapter Two of the
   Driver’s Manual)
Module 13 – Distracted Driving

Purpose
This module informs new drivers about the existing laws regarding mobile phone use and texting while driving and educates new drivers about the dangers of distracted driving. The intent is to provide an overview of driver distractions to be aware of, along with a variety of strategies to avoid becoming distracted while behind the wheel.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- List the various driver distractions (inside and outside of the vehicle)
- Identify the distracted driving laws in Massachusetts
- Describe how distracted driving impacts the driver’s ability to react to their environment
- Describe how the emotional/physical state of the driver can become a distraction
- Identify 3 strategies that will help the driver to avoid becoming distracted

Measurement
- Provide 10 scenarios related to Distracted Driving, and instruct students to: 1) identify all potential distractions within; and 2) identify strategies to avoid the distractions.

Topic Outline

1. Safe Driver Law
   a. Mobile Phones
   b. Texting
   c. Three Surchargeable Events in Two Years = Suspension of License

2. Response Time When Distracted
   a. Cell Phone
   b. Texting

3. Mental/Physical Effects on Driving
   a. How Emotions Affect Driving
i. Inattention
ii. Lack of Concentration
iii. Emotional Stress
iv. Ability to Process Information

b. Fatigue
   i. How Fatigue Affects Driving Ability
   ii. How Drowsiness Causes Crashes

4. Driver Distractions
   a. In Car Distractions and their Effects on Driving
      i. Vehicle audio systems
      ii. Headphones (Note: The use of headphones while operating a motor vehicle in Massachusetts is illegal unless such headphones are used for controlling the course of movement of the said vehicle. See M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 13.)
      iii. Cellular phones (include impact of new cell phone and texting laws)
      iv. GPS or navigation system
      v. Passengers
      vi. Grooming
      vii. Eating, drinking or smoking
      viii. Attending to children or pets
      ix. Reading maps or other literature
      x. Televisions (Note: A television forward of the back of the front seat is illegal in Massachusetts.)
   b. Distractions Outside of the Car
      i. Outside traffic/vehicle
      ii. Police pulling someone over
      iii. Sunlight/sunset
      iv. People/objects in the roadway
      v. Crash scene
      vi. Road construction
      vii. Reading billboards or other advertisements
   c. How Distractions Hinder Driving Ability

5. Safe Driving Habits
   a. Strategies for Avoiding Distraction
Module 14 – Consequences of Unsafe Driving and Poor Decision Making

Purpose
This module is intended to teach new drivers that decision-making plays a key role in being a good driver in addition to fostering good driving skills. It is important to realize that poor decisions could severely impact the driver’s life; the passengers’ lives and the lives of families and friends if an accident were to occur. These decisions may also cause an emotional and a financial toll that may have a long lasting impact.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:
- Identify examples of bad decisions effecting driving caused by social pressures
- Explain what happens in a crash and the physical and emotional impact
- Describe how driving records, suspensions, and lifetime look back influence your operator’s insurance cost
- Provide examples of which type of drivers are most at risk for crashes

Measurement
- Have students complete another personality type indicator that also asks them to reflect on decision-making and its impact on driving.

Topic Outline
1. Social Pressures & Driving
   - Speeding
   - Drag Racing
   - No Seat Belts
2. Types of Crashes
3. Hit and Run Crashes (from “Traffic Crashes” section of Chapter Five of the Driver’s Manual)
4. Collisions
5. Physical & Emotional Effects to Yourself & Others
6. Brain Injury
7. Crash Statistics
8. Lifetime Look back
9. Driving Record & Suspensions
   - Suspensions for Surchargeable Events and Speeding Violations
10. Types of Insurance coverage offered
11. Discuss how insurance is effected by a crash
Module 15 – Handling Emergencies and Breakdowns, Final Review

Purpose
This module is intended to teach new drivers about common vehicle malfunctions and roadway hazards. It is also intended to demonstrate how a safe driver, using good decision making skills, handles each situation along with the steps they should follow if ever in a vehicle accident.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Identify common vehicle malfunctions and the proper way to address them
- List possible roadway hazards and how to use good decision making and driving skills to navigate the situation
- Explain the steps to follow if involved in a vehicle accident
- Complete an accident report

Part I: Handling Emergencies and Breakdowns

1. Vehicle Malfunctions

2. Roadway Hazards

3. What you should do if you are in a crash:
   - Pull to the Side of the Road, if possible
   - Stop Immediately
   - Warn Others If Possible
   - Call for Medical Help if necessary
   - Call the Police
   - Exchange Information
   - Get Names and Addresses of Witnesses
   - Stay at the Scene
   - Make Accident Reports (If Required)
   - See a Doctor (If You Have Been Injured)
4. What you should do when stopped by a Police Officer:
   - Pull safely to the side of the road
   - Have your license and registration available

5. Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness
   - How to become an organ donor (under 18 years of age requires parental consent)
   - New Organ and Tissue Donor Registration Fund

Part II: Final Examination/Final Review

Purpose
Final Exam: To test the students knowledge of the material taught throughout the Driver Education Program.
Final Review: The final review is an opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of what students have learned in the classroom. The activities used in the final review should provide the instructor with important information regarding which students have mastered the knowledge and skills and which students need more educational support.

The exam must consist of a minimum of fifty (50) questions. At least thirty (30) percent of the questions shall pertain to the rules of the road. The remaining questions are subject to the discretion of the driving school. A passing grade of eighty (80) percent must be obtained.

Method
The final review should include a variety of different activities that address the different learning styles present in the classroom.
Driver’s Education Supplemental Materials

Introduction
The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has compiled the following list of educational materials that may be used to supplement the required modules. The RMV recommends the use of additional learning tools in addition to instructor-led lecture in order to enhance the learning process and keep the student driver’s attention.

Recommended materials
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Driver’s Manual
A driver’s education textbook
Videos applicable to the topics in each module
   Videos should be followed by a discussion of the subject matter and a question and answer period.
Guest speakers
Diagrams
Daily newspaper clippings
RMV website

It is also suggested that driver education instructors test the students’ knowledge through the use of measurement tools such as quizzes, handouts, and tests. For example, a recommended tool would be the use of a pre-test and a post-test. The students would receive a pre-test with questions pertaining to the module topic. This would test the student’s knowledge of the subject matter. After the module is taught or at a subsequent class the students would receive a post-test to measure their comprehension of the subject.

Module 1 – Introduction to Driver’s Education
Handouts: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Driver’s Manual

The Driver’s Manual should be used throughout the driver’s education program as it contains information that is included in each of the required modules.

   A student and/or parent letter from the Registrar

Videos: The Greatest Gift:
   from the Lazarus Organ Donor Awareness Program 8 min.

   A video with the topic of good decision-making.

Module 2 – Signs, Signals & Road Markings
Diagram: Displaying signs, signals and road markings

Activity: A sign memory activity.
### Module 3 – Understanding the Vehicle and Its Controls
**Video:** A video displaying vehicle controls and locations.

**Activity:** Student brings in a car owner’s manual. Instructor walks student through manual in general terms discussing the importance of certain instruments and controls.

### Module 4 – Basic Driving Skills
**Video:** AAA: Drivers Zed

A video explaining the use of mirrors, changing lanes, and/or passing or being passed.

**Handout:** Use of mirrors pamphlet (Liberty Mutual Insurance has slides on how to adjust mirrors)

### Module 5 – Rules of the Road
**Video:** MBTA/Operation Lifesaver: Why wait for the train? 24:10 min

Video explaining driving in rotaries and roundabouts.

(New York, Washington State, and Missouri DOT have information about roundabouts on their websites.)

### Module 6 – Making Safe Driving Decisions
**Video:** Anatomy of a Tragedy, “Safety Belts Matter” 25 min

AAA: Preventing Road Rage:
- Anger management for drivers 20:18 min

DDD: Aggressive Driving Video
- Irish crash video clip
- Taxi crash video clip

**Guest Speaker:** Address the importance of safe decision-making

For example, this speaker may have made poor decisions that resulted in a negative outcome.

### Module 7 – Sharing the Road
**Video:** Cars, Motorcycles and A Common Road:
- A motorist awareness program 8.5 min

Children in Traffic
Module 8 – How Natural Laws Affect Driving
Video: AAA: Unlocking the mystery of ABS

Module 9 – Different Driving Environments
Video: AAA: Managing Visibility, Time and Space

Video explaining Right-of-Way rules

Module 10 – Driving in all Weather Conditions
Video: Show a video which demonstrates hydroplaning, skidding and regaining control of the vehicle.

Guest Speaker: Representative from law enforcement who can explain and provide examples of how weather conditions affect driving.

Module 11 – Mental & Physical Condition Affect Driving
Diagram or Chart: Provide students with scientific statistical information, which depicts how physical and mental condition affect the abilities of a driver.

Module 12 – The Dangers of Alcohol, Drugs and Driving
NIH Commonly Abused Drugs Fact Sheet (rev. January 2016)
https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/drugged-driving

Module 13 – Distracted Driving
Mass RMV Driver Education Program Manual:

Distraction.gov
https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving

National Safety Council
http://www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/distracted-driving-research-studies.aspx

Module 14 – Consequences of Unsafe Diving & Poor Decision Making
Guest Speaker: Brain Injury Association: KEYS Program

Module 15 – PART I: Handling Emergencies & Breakdowns
PART II: Final Review

Activity: Create an activity to review the driver’s education curriculum they were taught. The activity should allow students to interact and participate actively in the review. A trivia game concept could provide the basic concept for this activity.
Introduction
This section of the driver’s education curriculum is intended to list the skills and knowledge which must be taught during road driving lessons. Each student must learn and practice the skills listed in this section.

Skills
A. How to Complete a Pre-Driving Vehicle Check
   - Check vehicle for properly working safety equipment (brake lights, directional lights, headlights, windshield wipers, etc)
   - Check all tires for tread wear, pressure and irregular wear patterns or external damage.
   - Check all warning lamps and gauges (fluid levels, brake & check engine lights etc.)
   - Verify amount of fuel

B. Beginning to Drive
   - Adjust vehicle seats and mirrors
   - Use good driving posture and proper hand placement on the wheel
   - Start the engine
   - Use mirrors while driving
   - Start and stop the vehicle safely
   - Recognize and obey traffic signs and signals
   - Proper use of directionals
   - Back up the vehicle at least 50 feet (straight)
   - Turn around between curbs

C. On the Road Skills
   - Demonstrate how to respond to different types of road signs
   - How to safely navigate the vehicle and share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists
   - Demonstrate proper and safe following distances
   - Enter and leave various types of intersections
   - Make left and right turns with the aid of traffic lights
   - Make left and right turns without the aid of traffic lights (four way stop and other types of intersections)
   - Changing lanes to make a turn, pass a vehicle or avoid road work
- How to safely pass a vehicle
- Merging with traffic
- Parallel park
- Stop versus yield
- Start, stop, and turn the vehicle on a hill
- Use hand signals
- Apply common sense and good decision making when driving

D. Reacting to Unexpected Situations
- How to react to all types of emergency vehicles
  - The Emergency Vehicle “Move Over” Law
- Safely pull off the road for an emergency
- How to navigate debris or animals in the road
- Safely demonstrate braking techniques used for vehicles equipped with Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS) and non-ABS brakes (threshold braking)

Required Experiences
Students must be exposed to the following experiences as part of their road training.
- Highway Driving including entering and exiting highway, changing lanes, and passing a vehicle
- Navigating an intersection without traffic signals
- Practice yielding to traffic and merging with traffic
- Pulling off the road safely
- Navigating a rotary or roundabout
- Stopping for pedestrians
- Varying vehicle speeds to accommodate driving setting and road conditions
- Parking the vehicle in a parking space on the side of the road and parking lot
- Backing the vehicle in and out of a parking space

Driving Observation Requirements
Students observing the driving of another student should be required to keep an observation journal which identifies the examples of good and bad driving they observed. They should then indicate in the journal why the driving was good and list examples of skills or behaviors. They should also list the skills and behaviors that caused what they considered bad driving and poor decision making.

Instructors should actively gather feedback from students observing the driving of another student and students should be prepared to discuss the instruction observed citing good and poor decisions made during the course of instruction.
Introduction
A new requirement of driver’s education will be at least a two hour class for parents/guardians. The intention of this class is to educate parents/guardians about the content of the driver education curriculum, the junior operator’s law and the driving skills and behaviors that their children will be learning. It is important for parents/guardians to know the skills and behaviors that they should be modeling while driving so that they can coach and mentor their children to be safe and skilled drivers.

Objectives
By the end of the class, parents should be able to:

✓ Explain the junior operator’s law and the parent/guardian’s role in supporting the law
✓ List the driving skills their child must master to pass a road test
✓ Identify the driver’s education modules and the relevance to developing good driving skills
✓ Provide examples of family member driving behaviors which may negatively influence a new driver

Topic Outline
I. Driver’s Education Overview
   Purpose and class structure
   Expectations
   Curriculum modules
II. Junior Operator’s Law
III. The Safe Driver Law
IV. Necessary Driving Skills and Behaviors
V. Parent’s Role
   Coaching and mentoring
   Supporting junior operator law
   Role model