



BEST PRACTICE:

TEXAS VIRTUAL SCHOOL NETWORK (TxVSN) AND DRIVER EDUCATION

Texas law requires a person under 18 years of age to successfully complete a state-approved course in driver education before they are eligible to receive a driver's license prior to age 18. Public schools, education service centers, colleges, and universities may offer driver education programs.

TEC 30A Section 1041 (a) outlined the potential for provider districts to seek approval to offer the classroom portion of Driver Education and Traffic Safety course (as referred to under Section 29.902) via the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN); however, subsection (b) stated that provider districts may not offer the laboratory portion via TxVSN. Finally, subsection (c) outlined that any Driver Education course offered via TxVSN "must be equivalent in instructional rigor and scope to a course that is provided in a traditional classroom setting for a period of 56 hours."

Beginning spring 2010 semester, Driver Education will be available to Texas students through TxVSN. This course encompasses the 56 hours of driver education classroom instruction required by the state. Students completing the classroom instruction phase may earn one-half unit of state credit toward graduation under the school day or non-school day credit programs. Upon completion of the classroom course, additional information and criteria will be outlined by the online course instructor for students in pursuit of their driver's license.

The classroom phase of the Driver Education offered through TxVSN is eligible for state virtual school network allotment funding if:

- The student is enrolled in a Texas district or open enrollment charter school serving grades 9-12, and the district or open enrollment charter school is participating in TxVSN.
- The course is successfully completed during the fall, spring, or summer 2010 semesters.*
- The course meets a graduation requirement for the student (elective).
- The student is otherwise eligible to take Driver Education.

For additional information pertaining to Teenage Driver Education, please contact:

Nina Saint, Texas Education Agency
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www.tea.state.tx.us/safedriver
(Select the Curriculum link on the vertical navigation bar)

*For additional information, please refer to the 'To the Administrator Addressed Letter', dated 2/9/10, located at <http://www.txvsn.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4zUVS-xMIIA%3d&tabid=39>.