



Driver Education Newsletter

March 2020

2020 Driver Education Conferences

-CANCELED-

Given the guidance to avoid large gatherings, the State Department of Education has canceled all of the scheduled 2020 Driver Education conferences. The SDE intends to reschedule this training in late summer or early fall depending on developments in the COVID-19 pandemic. In the event the SDE is not able to reschedule the training, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will work with the State Board of Education and the Legislature to seek a waiver of the required professional development hours for the 2020-2021 school year.

GOOD NEWS:

Senate Bill 1278 to increase public driver education funding from \$125 to \$150 has passed both the House and Senate. It is now on its way to Governor Little's desk.

?Questions?

Q: Do we need to cancel our Driver Ed classes if school closes?

A: That decision is up to your local school district.

Q: Can we teach the remaining classes online?

A: Again, that decision is up to your local school district. However, there are state guidelines that must be met. Students must complete 30 hours of classroom instruction (or online). You need to know they completed the required seat time. Also students must still complete 6 hours of behind-the-wheel and 6 hours of observation time.

Q: Can the students complete the classes online and we finish the drives when school resumes?

A: That depends on what your district decides. Remember you must also comply with the guidelines in the [Idaho Public Driver Education Program Manual](#):

2.2.4 Students shall be regularly scheduled for concurrent and sequential classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction. Every student will receive instruction for the required number of hours.

2.2.6 Classroom instruction shall not be substantially completed or completed before starting in-car practice.

Q: Can we use the IDLA curriculum for teaching online classes?

A: No. It is true that IDLA has opened up some course materials to schools free of charge. However, this applies to non-licensed materials. The Driver Ed course is licensed through AAA and not available to share freely.

Q: How am I going to get my NNU credit for re-licensing my teaching certificate if the conference is canceled?

A: I don't know if we are going to be able to reschedule the conference at this time. I would recommend taking another online course to fulfill your re-licensing credits for your teaching certificate.

Q: The 8 hours of professional development is required to be licensed. Are we going to get relicensed?

A: I don't know when a decision will be made in regards to the yearly professional development hours required to remain certified to teach driver education. If we can reschedule, we will have conferences at a later date. If we cannot reschedule, Superintendent Ybarra along with the State Board of Education and the Legislature will make a decision on how to proceed. If you are an instructor with a private driving business, I recommend you contact IBOL to ask what procedures you should take to remain licensed.