



Hastings Community Education NEW! Graduated Driver License Law

A new Graduated Driver License Law was passed during the 2014 Legislative Session. This law will impact all students under the age of 18 who will not complete their behind the wheel instruction until after January 1, 2015. The most significant change is that parents will need to complete a 90 minute class about teen driving OR maintain a log indicating they have driven with their students for 50 hours BEFORE the student will be permitted to obtain their driver's license. Currently parents are required to drive with their students for 30 hours before obtaining their license. This driving requirement increases to 40 hours.

Hastings Community Education's Driver's Education program is designed to meet the requirements of this new law and will be offering a parent class. Listed below are some frequently asked questions and answers from the Department of Motor Vehicle Services.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW LAW:

Q: When does this law take effect?

A: January 1, 2015.

Q: How many driving hours are my students required to verify on the log?

A: 50 hours of supervised driving time are required, 15 of which must be nighttime hours. Or if a parent/guardian completes the parent class, and submits a certificate of completion to the driver exam staff at the time of the road test, or if it was submitted when applying for an instruction permit, 40 hours of supervised driving time are required, 15 of which must be nighttime hours.

Q: Are all parents/guardians required to complete the parent class?

A: No. Completion of the parent class is optional.

Q: What are the curriculum topics that must be included in the parent class?

A: All programs must provide information on the following topics.

- Graduated driver licensing.
- Safety risks associated with novice drivers.
- Potential influence of adults on driving behavior of novice drivers.
- Additional resources.

Q: If parents complete a 90 minute parent class prior to January 1, 2015, will it be acceptable for students to document only 40 hours of supervised driving time after January 1?

A: Yes.

Q: If parents/guardians complete the parent class and receive a certificate of completion, is this valid for any other child who completes a driver education program?

A: No. The certificate of completion is valid only for one teen, unless there is more than one teen in the same class. Parents/guardians will be required to complete another parent class for subsequent teens who complete a driver education program.