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# **Better Integrating Driver Education and Training within a New Graduated Driver Licensing Framework in North America**

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**Formation à la conduite: une vision à 360°**

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# Overview

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- > **Driver Education and Training**
  - » Rationale and history
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- > **GDL Framework and driver education**



# Graduated Driver Licensing





# Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL): In brief

- > **Concept: Protect novices as they gain on-road experience**
- > **Essential Features: Extended supervised learner period (supplemented by hours requirements)**
- > **Limits on high-risk driving once initially licensed (night, passenger restrictions)**



## Progress of GDL in U.S. and Canada: History

- > **Initially unpopular but a few states had an extended learner period or a night restriction prior to 1996**
- > **1994: Ontario and then Nova Scotia implemented GDL programs**
- > **1996-2006: all jurisdictions implemented some form of GDL, including at least one essential feature: extended learner stage, night restriction, passenger restriction**



## Progress of GDL in U.S. and Canada: Recent Developments

- > **1998-2015: in the U.S. 158 amendments of original legislation adding or strengthening these features, plus supervised hours requirements**
- > **Over this period, enhancements to GDL also introduced in some Canadian provinces**
- > **2010-present: major slowdown in further upgrades of these GDL features**



# Driver education





# History and purpose

- > **Promoted as a safety measure that dates back to the early 1930s.**
- > **Teaches young and new drivers:**
  - » rules of the road;
  - » driving skills;
  - » how to prepare for the road test;
  - » how to drive safely.





# Structure

- > **Typically consists of:**
  - » “theoretical” instruction in the classroom (30 hours);
  - » “practical” training in the vehicle (6-8 hours).
- > **Although similarities, considerable variation in content and delivery across and even within jurisdictions.**
- > **In some cases, it is a mandatory requirement of the licensing process.**
- > **In others, it is not mandatory, but provisions to encourage teens to take it.**



# Popularity and reach

- > **All jurisdictions have some form of driver education.**
- > **In most jurisdictions driver education is delivered in:**
  - » high schools;
  - » commercial driving schools;
  - » combination of both.
- > **Estimated 80% of public school students with a driver's license report taking driver education in the U.S.**



# Recent developments

- > **Efforts to improve driver education:**
  - » Novice Teen Driver Education and Training Administrative Standards (NTDETAS)
  - » Association of National Stakeholders for Traffic Safety Education (ANSTSE)
    - strategic plan to promote the National Standards
    - delivery standards
    - online delivery standards
    - teacher training standards
    - information sharing system
    - technical assistance



# Recent developments

- > **NHTSA-facilitated assessments of State driver education programs.**
- > **Expert panel review of program against the National Administrative Standards:**
  - » Oregon
  - » Maryland
  - » Vermont
  - » Delaware
  - » Idaho
  - » Michigan



# Supplementing DE

## > **Online driver education:**

- » Becoming popular as a means to deliver the classroom segment of driver education.
- » In coming years, well over 50% of teens will receive their DE classroom segment via some type of online delivery method:
  - integrated student-teacher interactions;
  - visually oriented, with reading and click to advance.
- » National online delivery standards under development.



# Safety effectiveness

- > **Graduated driver licensing:**
  - » very popular
  - » applied in every state and province
  - » proven to be an effective solution
- > **Driver education:**
  - » very popular
  - » applied in every state and province
  - » traditional programs have generally failed to reduce crashes
  - » contemporary programs have not been evaluated



# GDL and driver education

- > **Programs co-exist but are rarely coordinated.**
- > **Programs often separate with no linkages.**
- > **Requirements for driver education are carried over from the pre-GDL period.**
- > **Growing interest in integrating driver education and GDL with improved DE:**
  - » content;
  - » delivery mechanisms;
  - » legal/administrative framework.



## New GDL Framework

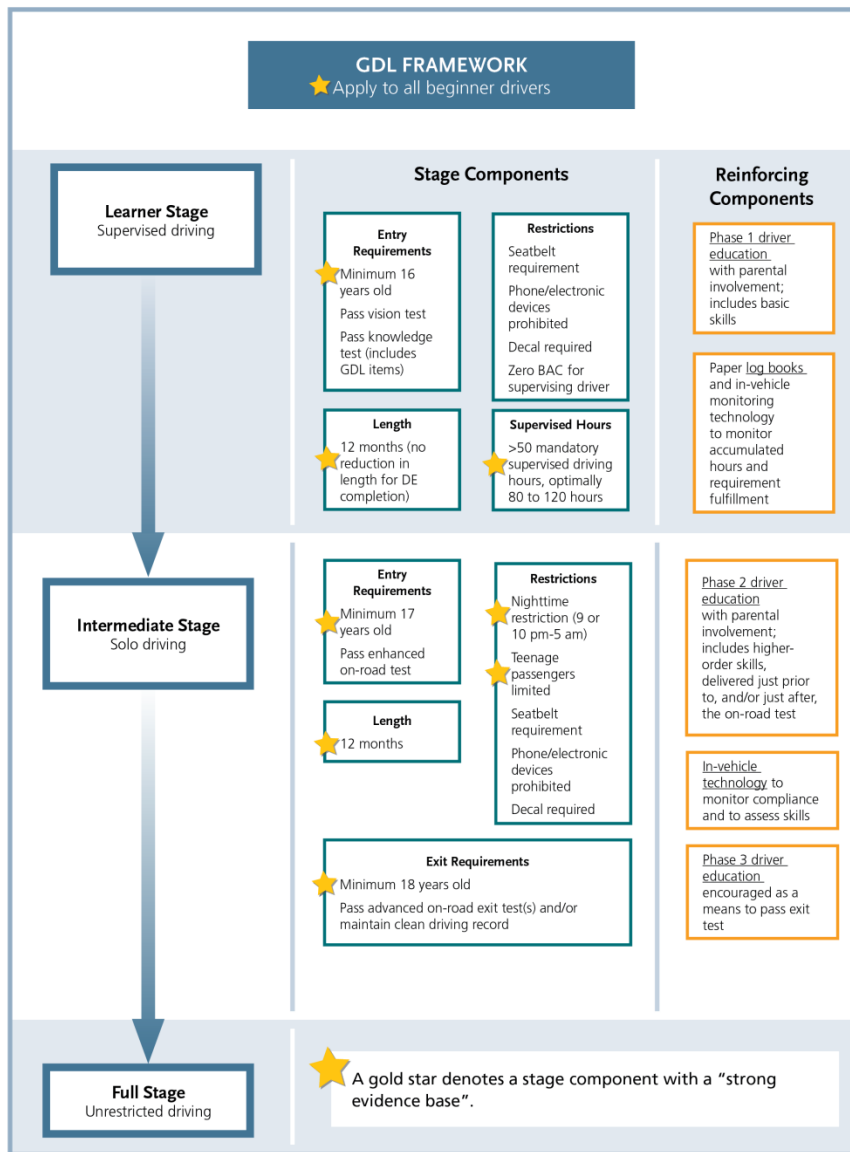
- > Improve GDL and related-safety programs to better address the elevated crash risks of young and novice drivers**
- > Phase 1: Develop a new GDL Framework in which, driver education, license and testing requirements, and in-vehicle monitoring technology are better integrated into an enhanced GDL program -- completed**
- > Phase 2: Develop an implementation plan for the GDL Framework -- ongoing**





## **GDL Framework is based on:**

- > Research evidence and expert guidance.**
- > Many initiatives already in place somewhere (i.e., they work in practice so they may be feasible elsewhere).**
- > All initiatives make sense as a way to reinforce core GDL.**





# GDL Framework and driver education

## > **Phase 1 driver education:**

- » Basic skills – e.g., vehicle handling
- » Parental involvement – e.g., orientation class

## > **Phase 2 driver education:**

- » Higher-order skills – e.g., hazard perception
- » Parental involvement
- » Just prior to and/or just after basic road test

## > **Phase 3 driver education:**

- » To pass exit test



# Content, focus and delivery

- > **Upgrade curriculum and include more information about GDL.**
- > **Broaden the focus to adequately address wider lifestyle issues (i.e., how drivers actually behave and not their skill level).**
  - » European GDE matrix depicts a hierarchical model of the driver's task.
  - » Resilience training to address lifestyle factors.
  - » Insight training to address optimism bias.
  - » "P"-drivers project to effect behavior change.
- > **Use best teaching methods and learning principles.**



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