



Driver Education Reform Report

**Presentation to the Joint Legislative
Program Evaluation Oversight Committee**

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Brief History



- OSBM Report, November 2010
- PED Review, December 2010
- SL 2011-145, Section 28.37 - Driver Education Reform
- Previous reports made by DPI on September 18, 2012 and January 14, 2013
- Today, we report on the UNC-SOG study and Driver Education Strategic Plan

Online Pilot Project



- Five Local Education Agencies (LEAs) participated
- February 2012 – June 2012
- 30 hours of computerized instruction, no teacher interaction
- 532 students enrolled, 358 completed

UNC-SOG Evaluation Methods



- Review of other national studies
- Comparison of the quality of teaching mode with various performance measures
- Comparison of cost information
- Use of optional fee

UNC-SOG Data



Literature and report review

Test scores, school attended, and related teaching method for students who took the DMV knowledge test from July 1, 2010 and July 31, 2012 (N=273,726 students state-wide)

State-wide survey of schools (N=338, 81% response rate)

Selected interviews of officials in other states (California, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia)

UNC-SOG findings



- No other study of impact of different teaching modes exists
- Using various measures of performance, there is little difference between teaching modes
- It is too early to assess impact of NC pilot of on-line exclusive program
- Comparable cost information was not available
- Of those who responded to the question, (n=242), 164 schools require the fee, and of those, most require the top allowable amount of \$45.

Based on UNC-SOG findings



- DPI will continue to review all teaching method best practices
- Collaborate with LEAs wishing to provide an online option, collect more data
- 2012-13 is first full complete year of fee collections, data will be collected and processed in July

Driver Education Strategic Plan



- Adopted by State Board of Education (SBE) in February 2013
- Addresses problem areas found by PED review
- Provides guidance for the future direction of driver education in NC
- Uses Novice Teen Driver Education Training and Administrative Standards to form a foundation for growth
- Is a “living” document, to be revisited, revised and improved

Program Administration



- PED review showed lack of program administration & oversight in DPI
- Through a GHSP grant, DPI hired a driver education contractor from April 2011 until September 2012
- In January 2013, DPI hired a full-time driver education consultant
- Assembled a Driver Education Advisory Committee (DEAC)

DE Advisory Committee



- Helped develop current curriculum
- Helped develop the NC Strategic Plan
- Now focused on implementation of the Strategic Plan and program integrity
- Workgroup provides recommendations to DPI Consultant

Advisory Committee Members



- Include representatives from the Department of Public Instruction, Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Insurance, Governor's Highway Safety Program, NC State Highway Patrol, UNC-Highway Safety Research Center, NC Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, LEA Coordinators, In-house LEA and Commercial Driver Educators

Oversight/Accountability



- Year-end financial and program report – curriculum, classroom & BTW completions
- Compare number of eligible students, program participants and successful license applicants
- Compare fee effects – those LEAs who collect vs. those that do not
- Create evaluation process for coordinators and instructors

Standardized Curriculum



- Developed, adopted and revised as directed by General Assembly
- Approved by SBE in March 2011
- Revised in July 2011 to include one hour of motorcycle safety as directed by General Assembly
- All LEAs must use the curriculum

Classroom



- Increase class time from 30 to 45 hours with appropriate funding
- Maximum of 2 hours per day on school days
- Limit of 30 students per class
- Pilot increased hours using online component of a “blended” system

Behind the Wheel



- Increase BTW hours from 6 to 8 with appropriate funding
- Recommend 1.5 hours per day, change drivers every 30 minutes
- Establish a maximum of 3 students per session (minimum 2)
- Recommend 6 hours of observation time

Instructor Qualifications



- Develop an approval process for commercial schools contracting with LEAs
- Establish consistency in Continuing Education Credit requirements for DPI licensed and DMV certified instructors
- Collaborate with DMV School Bus & Traffic Safety to include effective teacher training
- Yearly evaluations to be completed and reported

Coordination with Driver Licensing



- Established positive relationship with DMV
- Continue exploring improvements to Graduated Driver Licensing
- Discussed possibility of creating a final exam that would count toward licensure
- If successful, could eliminate time spent on first time visits to DMV and multiple visits

Parental Involvement



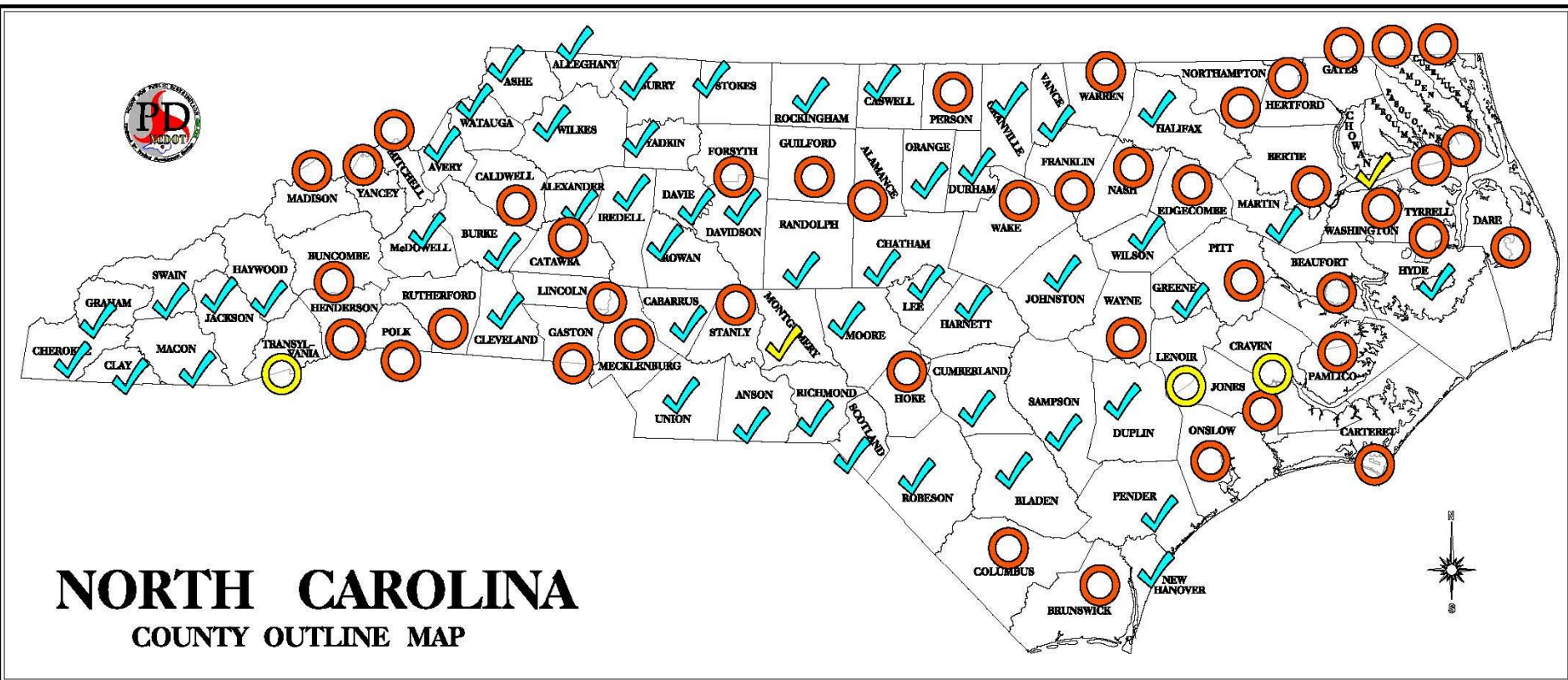
- Many LEAs are already meeting with parents before, during or at the end of DE
- Goal is to have parent meetings in all LEAs
- Provide latest information on laws, driving log requirements, procedures for maneuvers and acceptable driving practices
- Provide support for learner's permit stage

DE Funding History



- Before 1992, all driver education instructors were certified teachers licensed in driver education
- In 1992, LEAs were allowed to contract driver education services
- In 1992, driver education funding reduced \$5.7 million (from \$275 per student to \$238)
- In 2011 driver education funding reduced \$5.2 million (\$238 to \$200); LEAs allowed to charge a fee up to \$45

LEA Flexibility - “in-house” programs (checks), commercial providers (circles), transitional (yellow)



NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OUTLINE MAP

Comparison of programs



LEA	In-House	Contract	Teacher Salary/Benefits	Vehicles	Insurance	Maintenance	Supplies
Durham	X		LEA	LEA	LEA	LEA	LEA
Alamance		X	LEA (1 person) Contractor	LEA	LEA	LEA	LEA
Cumberland	X		LEA	LEA	LEA	LEA	LEA
Guilford		X	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	LEA
Burke	X		LEA	LEA	LEA	LEA	LEA
Caldwell		X	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor

Conclusion



- DPI is committed to provide leadership for Driver Education and Traffic Safety in NC
- DEAC has quarterly meetings scheduled and conference call capability to discuss program recommendations and advise DPI, SBE and Driver Education Consultant
- A positive dialogue among stakeholders has been established to improve novice driving in NC



Questions?

