Preface

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has developed the following driver education program as a means of standardizing driver education throughout the state. The driver education program is comprised of the Driver Education Curriculum, Driver Practicum Curriculum, the Parent Curriculum, and a final examination. As of September 1, 2007 it is mandatory that the RMV program be taught in Professional Driving School Programs and Public and Private High School Programs. The aim of the new program is to ensure consistency among driver education programs by standardizing the knowledge, skills and ability of each student driver. It is the RMV’s hope that driver education be a comprehensive learning experience that will lead to a reduction in the number of crashes by junior operators.

A driver education program must consist of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction. The RMV curriculum consists of 15, two hour modules. The modules are comprised of topic matter that will provide students the skills necessary to obtain a driver’s license and to become conscientious drivers. The RMV recommends that the modules be taught in the order they appear. If the instructor chooses to vary from the recommended program, the order in which the modules will be taught must be documented and made available upon request.

Each student must be taught the material contained in all 15 modules. If a student misses a class, the student must make up the module that was missed or the course hours will be considered incomplete. Material in the modules may be taught through instruction, guest speakers, textbook or video presentation. A full list of recommended supplemental materials for the program can be found in Appendix A.

A driver education program must also consist of 12 hours on-road instruction conducted by a certified driver education instructor and 6 hours of observation. A Driver Practicum Curriculum outlining the on-road skills that should be taught is found in Appendix B. Driver education instructors must be fully certified in both classroom and on-road instruction. An instructor meeting the minimum certification requirements must complete a driving instructor training program and pass a written driving instructor examination.

A final examination must be offered to students upon completion of the course. The final examination should test a student’s comprehension of the topics covered in the driver’s education program.

A parent/guardian driver education class must be included within the driver education program. Parents/Guardians should be educated in the content of the driver education curriculum, the junior operator law, the restrictions a junior operator license carries and the driving skills and behaviors their children should be learning throughout the driver education experience. A sample curriculum for a parent/guardian course can be found in Appendix C. A parents/guardian’s guide to the junior operator law appears on the RMV website at www.massrmv.com.

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Driver’s Education Supplemental Materials

Driver Practicum Curriculum

Parent/Guardian Curriculum
Module 1 – Introduction to Driver’s Education

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Purpose

The introduction module is intended to provide an explanation of the driver’s education program content and expectations. The instructor should identify the basic elements of becoming a successful driver and provide an overview of the Massachusetts driver’s license and the license process.

Objectives

Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Explain the structure of the driver’s education program and their responsibilities for successful completion.
- List the basic driving fundamentals
- Identify the impact of decision making on driving records
- Define the Massachusetts license classes and restrictions
- Outline the procedure for obtaining a license

Measurement

- Issue a personality indicator instrument so students can identify the type of driver they might be.
- Facilitate a discussion with the students on decision-making and gauge their understanding of how decisions impact their driving.

Topic Outline

1. Student Responsibilities, Class Schedule & Syllabus
   Structure of Class, Administrative Requirements

2. Value of Taking a Driver Education Course

3. Driving Fundamentals
   - Control
   - Responsibility
   - Recognition
   - Anticipation
   - Compensation
   - Courtesy
4. Importance of Good Decision Making

5. Driving is a Privilege not a Right

6. Consequences of Poor Decision Making (Overview; See Module 14)
   - Lifetime look back
   - Out of state violation count on MA record
   - Injury
   - Criminal vs. civil infractions

7. License Classes and Restrictions
   a. Learner’s Permit
   b. Junior Operator License (JOL)
   c. Full License

8. Overview of Road Test
   a. Specialized Features in Vehicle Not Allowed During Road Test (see “Passenger Vehicle Test Procedures” section of Chapter One of the Driver’s Manual)
   b. 72 Hour Road Test Cancellation Policy
   c. Total Number of Road Tests Allowed in One Year
Module 2 – Signs, Signals and Road Markings

Purpose
This module provides basic education on the concept of the transportation system and explains the road markings that new drivers must be able to read and understand in order to apply this information to a driving situation. This module is intended to identify roadway communication tools that drivers must be able to comprehend and be responsive to.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, students should be able to:
- List the various types of traffic signs
- Recognize the common roadway signs and explain each sign’s purpose
- Identify how a driver must respond to different signals
- Explain the purpose of the roadway markings and how a safe driver adheres to the markings

Measurement
- Issue a pre-test about signs, signals, and road markings at the beginning of this module then issue a post-test at the end of this module.

Topic Outline
1. The Highway Transportation System
   A. What is the Highway Transportation System (HTS)?
   B. Highways and Their Design
      Intersection with Streets and Roads
   C. Federal & State Requirements

2. Traffic Signs
   A. Stop and Yield Signs
   B. Regulatory Signs
      Action Required
      Speed Limit Signs
      Railroad Cross bucks
   C. Warning Signs
      Action Required
      School Area Signs
      Railroad Warning Signs
   D. Guide Signs
      Function of Guide Signs
3. Traffic Signals
   A. Motor Vehicle Signals
   B. Pedestrian Signals
   C. Traffic Officer’s Directions
   D. Lane-Use Lights

4. Roadway Markings
   A. White Lane Lines
      Broken, Solid, Double Solid
   B. Yellow Lane Lines
      Broken, Double: One Solid, One Broken, Double: Both Solid
   C. Arrows
   D. Bicycle
   E. Crosswalks
   F. Stop Lines
   G. Railroad Crossing

5. School Zones

6. Crossing Guard Safety (from “Crossing Guards” section of Chapter Four of the Driver’s Manual)

7. Construction Zones
Module 3 – Understanding the Vehicle and Its Controls

Purpose
This module provides an orientation of the basic vehicle components and the control systems drivers must be familiar with in order to control a vehicle. The subject matter is intended to educate new drivers about the importance of understanding and effectively using vehicle components and to build routine habits necessary to being a safe driver.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the student should be able to:
- Locate and label basic vehicle components
- Explain the importance of communication devices and its affect on driving
- Create pre-driving procedure checklist
- Define the two types of transmissions

Measurement
- Have each student create a pre-driving checklist.
- Have each student complete a vehicle survey of the components of the vehicle they will drive the most.

Topic Outline
1. Transmission Types
   A. Automatic Transmission
   B. Manual Transmission

2. Basic Vehicle Components
   A. Control Devices
      - Ignition Switch
      - Selector Lever for Automatic Transmission
      - Gearshift for Manual Transmission
      - Clutch Pedal for Manual Transmission
      - Steering Wheel
      - Accelerator (Gas Pedal)
      - Cruise Control
B. Comfort Devices
   Seat-Position Controls
   Steering Wheel
   Air Conditioner and Heater
   Air Vents

3. Visibility & Vehicle Safety
   A. Devices that Aid Visibility
      Lights
      Windshield Wipers and Washer
      Sun Visors
      Defroster (Defogger)
      Rearview and Side-View Mirrors
   B. Restraint Systems
      Safety Belts
      Air Bags
      Head Restraints
      Door Locks
      Structural Features
   C. Anti-Theft Devices
      Ignition Buzzer
      Locks
      Alarms and Other Antitheft Devices

4. Instruments & Controls
   Speedometer and Odometer
   Fuel Gauge
   Alternator Gauge or Warning Light
   Temperature Gauge or Warning Light
   Oil-Pressure Gauge or Warning Light
   Brake Warning Light (ABS)
   Check Engine Light
   Other Dashboard Lights

5. Communication Devices
   Taillights
   Directional (Turn) Signals
   Emergency Flashers (Hazard Lights)
   Parking Lights
   Horn

6. Pre-Driving Procedure
   A. External Checks
      View the Surrounding Area
      Tires
         Importance of proper pressure
         Proper wear pattern

6
Sufficient tread depth for safety (minimum 2/32 inch)

Vehicle Body
Exterior Lights: Headlights, Directional Lights, Brake Lights, Back-Up Lights and Tail Lights
Exhaust System
Fluid Levels
Under the Hood

B. Internal Checks
Dash Board
   Fluid Level Alerts
   Fuel Level
Brakes
   Types of Brakes: ABS and other brake systems
   Parking Brake
Safety Belts
Spare Tire & tire changing equipment
First-Aid Kit (not required)

7. Discussion with students about how to safely change a tire.
Module 4 – Basic Driving Skills

Purpose
This module instructs students on the basic driving skills necessary to begin driving. It is intended that students learn the proven successful methods for operating a vehicle, navigating turns, moving and stopping and incorporating the use of the necessary vehicle control and communicating devices.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Identify the initial steps a driver always takes as they prepare to drive.
- Demonstrate effective methods of holding a steering wheel, turning the steering wheel, and steering in reverse
- Describe how to use the various mirrors while driving and how they assist in navigation
- List the steps drivers must follow when preparing to turn or change lanes
- Explain how to control your vehicle using acceleration, deceleration and braking.

Measurement
- Issue a pre-test and a post-test that addresses the key components of basic driving skills.

Topic Outline
1. Preparing to Drive

2. Starting, Moving & Stopping
   Moving Into Traffic
   Advance Planning
   Visibility
   Time
   Space

3. Steering
   Forward and Through Turns
   Holding the Steering Wheel
   Tracking and Steering
   Steering in a Straight Line
   Steering to Turn
Hand-over-hand steering
Push-pull-feed steering
Steering in Reverse

4. Use of Mirrors

5. Use of Headlights

6. Signaling

7. Turning Procedures
   A. Executing a Right Turn
      Preparing to Make a Right Turn
      Check for other motorists, bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians that may be approaching on
      the right. Choose the Correct Lane
      Communicate Intentions to Other Motorists (and pedestrians and bicyclists)
      Position the Vehicle

   B. Executing a Left Turn
      Preparing for a Left Turn
      Check for other motorists, bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians
      Choose the Correct Lane
      Communicate Intentions to Other Motorists (and pedestrians and bicyclists)
      Position the Vehicle

Turning Left from a Two-Way Street onto a Two-Way Street
Turning Left from a Two-Way Street onto a One-Way Street
Turning Left from a One-Way Street onto a One-Way Street
Turning Left from a One-Way Street onto a Two-Way Street

8. Backing up
   A. Straight
   B. While turning

9. Executing a Reverse in Direction
   Turnabouts
   Two-Point Turns
   Backing into a Driveway
   Heading into a driveway on the left
   Heading into a driveway on the right
   Three-Point Turns
   U-Turns

10. Parking the Vehicle
    A. Angle Parking and Perpendicular Parking
        Right-or-Left-Angle Parking (show illustrations)
        Perpendicular Parking (show illustrations)
    B. Exiting an Angled or a Perpendicular Parking Space
    C. Parallel Parking
D. Parking in Other Areas
   Parking in a driveway
   Parking in a garage
   Parking on a hill
   Parking downhill with a curb
   Parking downhill without a curb
   Parking uphill with a curb
   Parking uphill without a curb
   Restrictions on parking

11. Changing Lanes
   The Safest Way to Change Lanes
      Advance Planning
      Visibility
      Scanning
      Time
      Space
      Making the Change

12. Passing
   A. Decision making process
      Road Signs and Pavement Markings
      Weather Conditions
      Relative Speeds of the Two Vehicles
   B. Passing Another Vehicle
   C. Being Passed

13. Acceleration and Braking
   A. Acceleration, Deceleration, and Speed
      Acceleration and Deceleration Rates Vary
      Maintaining a Constant Speed
      Monitoring Your Speed

14. Green Driving Tips (From Chapter Six of Driver’s Manual)
Module 5 – Rules of the Road

Purpose
This module is intended to teach students about the rules of the road and the proper observation of these rules. The students have accumulated knowledge of driving through observation of family and friends, and it is important that they understand their responsibilities to effectively obey rules of the road, even the commonly ignored ones.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Identify the different types of speed limits and how they relate to the basic speed laws
- Explain what rotaries and roundabouts are and describe how to drive in single lane rotaries, multiple lane rotaries and roundabouts and how to pass in these situations
- Define right of way and the right of way rules for all users of the road including vehicles, pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists
- Provide examples of how to judge time and distance and how this relates to negotiating intersections and passing

Measurement
- Provide diagrams about intersections, roundabouts, rotaries and right of way scenarios and have the students label them appropriately depending on the road situation.
- Test student’s memory of the different types of speed limits and related speed laws.
- Provide a multiple-choice test about basic operating laws of Massachusetts.

Topic Outline
1. Basic Operating Laws of Massachusetts
   Understanding the Law
   Getting a Driver’s License
   Violations and the Point System
   Certificate of Title
   Vehicle Registration
   Insurance
   Inspection Sticker
2. Speed Limits
   A. Discuss the different types of Speed Limits
      Fixed Speed Limits
      Advisory Speed Limits
      Day and Night Speed Limits
   B. What Are Basic Speed Laws

3. Negotiating Intersections
   A. Controlled Intersections
   B. Uncontrolled Intersections

4. Railroad Crossings
   Safely Crossing a Railroad
   Determining When It is Safe to Cross
   Staying Alert
   Do Not Panic If the Vehicle Stalls
   Winter-Time Railroad Crossings
   Road Salt and Railroad Crossings

5. Rotaries and Roundabouts
   Describe the use of rotaries
   Single-Lane Rotaries
   Multiple Lane Rotaries
   Quarter-Turn
   Continue Straight Ahead
   Three-Quarter Turn
   U-Turn
   Roundabouts
   Rules for Passing, including Passing on the Left, Passing on the Right, and Being Passed.

6. Determining the Right of Way
   A. What is Right-of-Way?
   B. When Should You Yield the Right-of-Way?
   C. Discuss the Right-of-Way Rules for:
      Pedestrians
      Funeral Processions (supplement this section based on new material in Chapter Four of the Driver’s Manual)
      Intersections Not Controlled by Signs or Signals
      Four-Way Stops
      Turning Left
      Private Roads, Driveways and Unpaved Roads
      Throughways
      Intersection of Single, Two-Lane and Multiple-Lane Roads, and Rotaries

7. Safe Driver Law
   A. Mobile Phones
   B. Texting
   C. Three Surchargeable Events in Two Years Suspension

8. Emergency Vehicles “Move Over” Law
Module 6 – Making Safe Driving Decisions

Purpose
This module teaches new drivers important strategies and practices they must know and use each time they drive so that they are a safe driver at all times. This section also educates new drivers about how to identify aggressive drivers and their behaviors so that they can start to be aware of what to do when confronted with an aggressive driver.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:
- Define the SIPDE concept and explain how it relates to driving
- Define the Smith system and explain how it relates to driving
- Identify five safe driving habits
- Explain the purpose of seatbelts and discuss the consequence of not wearing a seatbelt
- List five behaviors of aggressive drivers and what you should do as a driver if confronted by this type of driver

Measurement
- Have students demonstrate through skits how to apply the SIDPE and SMITH systems.
- Have students record in their observation journals five examples each of safe and unsafe driving practices they have observed with friends or family. Students should share these observations with the class.

Topic Outline
1. Understanding and Applying the SIPDE/IPDE Process
Discuss the SIPDE concept and how does it relate to driving?

SEARCH
IDENTIFY
PREDICT
DECIDE
EXECUTE

Discuss the application of the SIPDE Process.

2. Understanding and Applying the Smith System

What is the Smith System, and how does it relate to driving?
Aim High and Look Ahead, Not Down
Keep Your Eyes Moving
Get the Big Picture
Make Sure Others See You
Leave Yourself a Way Out or a Margin of Safety

3. Safe Driving Habits (Practices)

4. Seatbelts

5. Passenger Vehicle Safety

6. Aggressive Driving

A. Aggressive Driving in Massachusetts
B. How to Identify Aggressive Drivers
   Aggressive Drivers typically exhibit several of the following tendencies:
   Cutting people off
   Exceed the speed limit
   Switch lanes without signaling
   Tailgate (follow too closely)
   Run red lights
   Prevent other motorists from passing them
C. What to do When Confronted by an Aggressive Driver
   Attempt to get out of his or her way
   Do not challenge them
   Avoid eye contact
   Ignore obscene gestures
   Wear your safety belt, it will help keep you in control of your vehicle and protect you in the event of a crash
   Control your anger and do not let the situation escalate
   Do not underestimate the other driver’s potential for aggression
   To report an aggressive driver to police, call 911

7. Road Rage
   Criminal Consequences
Module 7 – Sharing the Road

Purpose
This module educates students about sharing the road with users other than vehicles such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. The intention is to provide information about safe ways to share the road and drive with other roadway users as well as unexpected changes.

Objectives
- Identify the other users of the road and explain how to interact safely
- Explain the unique situations encountered with commercial vehicles and how to drive through them safely
- Recognize the different school bus and 7D vehicle signals and explain how a driver must react to those signals

Measurement
- Have students take a pre-test and post-test regarding important aspects of sharing the road and the responsibilities of pedestrians, motorcyclists, bicyclists and drivers.
- Quiz students on the appropriate driver responses to school buses, 7D vehicles, and emergency vehicles.

Topic Outline
1. Pedestrians
   A. Pedestrians Pose Problems for Drivers
      - Jaywalking
      - Children
      - Adults
   B. Avoiding Collisions With Pedestrians
   C. Responsibilities Pedestrians Have
   D. White canes and guide dogs should be associated with visually impaired individuals. Drivers should use increased caution when driving in the proximity to a potentially visually impaired individual.

2. Motorcyclists

3. Bicyclists, Mopeds & Scooters
A. Recognizing and Reducing the Risk of Problems Caused by Cyclists
   Watching Out for Cyclists
   Dangerous Roadway Conditions
   Lack of Protection
   Failure to Obey Traffic Laws
   Irresponsible Drivers
   What Special Responsibilities do Bicyclists Have?
   New Bicycle Safety Law
B. What Special Responsibilities Do Motorcyclists Have?

4. Interacting with Commercial Motor Vehicles
   A. Safely Sharing the Road with Other Vehicles
      Trucks and Tractor-Trailers
      Visibility
      Time
      Space
      Buses
      Small Cars
      Other Kinds of Vehicles
      Emergency Vehicles
      Snowmobiles (Not allowed to travel along road in Massachusetts)
      Sport Utility Vehicles
      Ice Cream Trucks
      Maintenance Vehicles
   B. Dealing With Slow-Moving Vehicles

5. School buses and 7D (School Pupil Transport) vehicles

6. Emergency Vehicles and EMS

7. Animals
   A. Avoid Collisions With Animals
      Small Animals/Large Animals
      Using SIPDE to Avoid Collisions with Animals
   B. Horse drawn carriages and vehicles
Module 8 – How Natural Laws Effect Driving

Purpose
This module teaches students that in addition to employing safe driving habits it is also important to understand how natural law effects driving and how to counteract the result of natural laws. This module begins the development of advanced driving skills needed to navigate certain driving situations.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Define natural laws and explain their impact on driving and a driver
- List the types of skids and the suggested solutions for controlling or regaining control of the vehicle
- Identify the stopping distance needed in various driving situations
- Explain how speed control and knowledge of natural laws can help avoid a collision
- Provide examples of the impact of collisions

Measurement
- Have students complete a post-test that contains driving scenarios learned in this module and have them provide the answer based on applying what they learned in this module. It should include:
  - Scenarios about stopping distance
  - Scenarios about steering in different skid situations and how to regain control
  - List examples of natural law

Topic Outline
1. Natural Laws and the Movement of Vehicles
   What Are Natural Laws?
   - Inertia
   - Friction
   - Tire Pressure
   - Tire Condition
   - Rain
   - Ice and snow
   - Road Condition
2. Steering and Braking
   A. Factors and Natural Laws Affecting Steering
   B. Natural Laws Affecting Steering Around a Curve
   C. How Gravity and the Contour of the Road Affect Steering
      Banked Roads
      Crowned Roads
   D. How Natural Laws Influence Braking Distance
      Factors Affecting Braking Distance
      Speed
      Condition of the vehicle
      Condition of the road
      Hills and mountains

3. Controlling Skids
   A. What Can Make A Vehicle Skid?
      Reduced Traction
      Changing Speed Too Quickly
      Changing Direction Too Quickly
      Understeering and Oversteering
   B. Kinds of Skids
      Review Causes and Corrections for Specific Skid Types
      A braking skid
      A power skid
      A cornering skid
      A blowout skid
      Responding to a skid

4. Impact and Restraint Systems

5. ABS and How they differ from other braking systems

6. Gravity and Energy of Motion

7. Friction and Traction

8. Stopping Distances
   A. Using Speed Control to Avoid a Collision
      Accelerating
      Braking
   B. How Knowledge of Natural Laws Can Help to Avoid a Collision
      Steering to Avoid a Collision
      Controlled Off-Road Recovery
   C. How to Minimize the Risk and Consequences of a Collision
Force of Impact
Speed of the vehicle
Weight of the vehicle
Impact distance
Reducing the Force of Impact
Sand Canisters
Vehicle Features

D. Unavoidable Collisions
   Head-on
   Side
Module 9 – Different Driving Environments

Revised 10/2014

Purpose
This module alerts students to different driving environments and is intended to teach them how to navigate various challenges like changing lanes, driving in urban versus rural areas, driving on hills, mountains and highways, and exiting and entering.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:
- Describe how to manage visibility, time and space in urban, rural, and highway driving
- List the steps to follow when changing lanes
- Explain how to behave when being passed and what to do when passing and being passed.
- Identify the special situations drivers face when driving on a highway and how to enter and exit a highway

Measurement
- Have students take a pre-test and post-test about the various skills they must gain for different driving situations.

Topic Outline
Different driving environments require different considerations.
1. Managing Visibility, Time & Space
   - Managing Visibility
     - Advance Preparations
     - Behind-the-Wheel Actions
   - Managing Time
   - Managing Space
     - Considering Time, Distance and Speed
     - Assessing and Adjusting the Space Around the Vehicle
     - Adjusting the following distance as needed
     - Keeping a three-second distance between vehicles.
     - Whenever possible, try to keep as much as 8 feet on either side of you.
If there is insufficient space ahead, behind, or to the side of your vehicle, take prompt action to increase the space.

Response Time When Distracted
Cell
Text

2. Changing Lanes

3. Urban Driving

   Special Factors Affecting City Driving
   Traffic Density
   Numbers of Pedestrians
   Intersections
   Slow or Irregular Traffic Flow
   Lower Speed Limits
   Sight Obstructions
   Potholes and Other Road Defects

   Managing Visibility, Time and Space in City Driving?
   Discuss Managing Visibility in the City
   Discuss Managing Time in the City
   Discuss Managing Space in the City

4. Following and Meeting Traffic

5. Techniques for Driving in Traffic

6. Rural Driving

   Special Factors Affecting Driving on Rural Roads
   Road Conditions
   Higher Speed, Fewer Controls
   Slow-Moving Vehicles
   Sight Obstructions
   Animals and Objects on the Roads

   Managing Visibility, Time and Space in Rural Driving
   Discuss Managing Visibility in Rural Areas
   Discuss Managing Time in Rural Areas
   Discuss Managing Space in Rural Areas

7. Passing or Being Passed on Rural Roads

8. Traveling on Hills or Mountains
   Driving Uphill and Downhill
   Driving Uphill
   Automatic transmission
   Manual transmission
   Driving Downhill
   Automatic transmission
   Manual transmission

   Driving in the Mountains
9. Highway Driving

   Special Factors Affecting Driving on Multiple-Lane Highways
   - Higher Speed Limits
   - Limited Entrances and Exits
   - Frequent Passing
   - Trucks and Other Large Vehicles

   Managing Visibility, Time and Space on Multiple-Lane Highways
   - Discuss Managing Visibility on Highways
   - Discuss Managing Time on Highways
   - Discuss Managing Space on Highways

10. Entering, Driving on or Exiting Highways

11. Passing or Being Passed on the highway

12. Dealing with Stop and Go Traffic

Module 10 – Driving in All Weather Conditions

Purpose
This module will teach students about the effects of weather conditions on driving and how to compensate for less than desirable conditions. It also suggests the best driving practices to account for these sometimes very difficult situations.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Identify five conditions that affect driving
- Describe how to drive safely when light is low and when there is glare from the sun
- List the steps you should follow to manage visibility, time, and space in rain and snow
- Explain how to anticipate and prevent skids and hydroplaning

Measurement
- Have students complete a pre test and posttest about all weather conditions.
- Have students list safe driving strategies for driving in sun glare, wind, fog, rain and snow.

Topic Outline
Different driving environments require different considerations.

1. Reduced Visibility
2. Low Light and Night Driving

   Low Light Conditions Affect Visibility
   Driving Safely When the Amount of Light is Low
   During Dusk and Dawn Hours
   At Night
   Using low beams and high beams correctly.
   Overdriving headlights.
   Looking beyond headlights
3. Visibility, Bright Light and Glare
   Conditions Creating Glare from the Sun
   Driving Safely in the Glare from the Sun

4. Reduced Traction

5. Judging Time and Distance
   a. Minimizing Risk on Different Surface Conditions
      Snow
      Ice
      Rain
      Gravel
      Sand
      Leaves – In addition, discuss dangers of driving into a leaf pile as it may make children
      or objects less visible.
   b. Managing Visibility, Time and Space
      Preparing in advance.
      Allowing for extra margin of safety.
      Driving in the tracks of the vehicle ahead on a wet pavement.
      Giving other drivers plenty of advance notice.
      Staying alert.
      Keeping low-beam headlights on
      Easing the way into turns and curves
      Anticipating and Preventing Skids.
      Anticipating and Preventing Hydroplaning
   c. Keeping a Safe Following Distance
      Using the 2-second rule (See Driver’s Manual)

6. Other Hazardous Weather Conditions
   Minimizing Risks in Other Hazardous Weather Conditions
   Fog or Smog
   Sand and Dust
   Wind
Module 11 – Mental and Physical Effects on Driving

Revised 10/2014

Purpose
This module alerts new drivers that their personal mental and physical condition impacts their driving skills. The intent is to describe how changes in emotions and physical conditions can affect driving skills and may cause them to drive unsafely.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- List the ways emotions affect your driving
- Explain the relationship between vision and ability to drive
- Describe how fatigue, long term and short term illnesses affect your driving skills
- Identify four driving distractions and how they affect your driving ability

Measurement
- Provide 10 scenarios related to Mental and Physical conditions effecting driving and have students create the solution to address the problem. The problem could be making a decision to drive or not and what to do if it were to occur while he/she was driving.

Topic Outline
1. Emotions and the Ability to Drive
   How Emotions Affect Your Driving
     Inattention
     Lack of Concentration
     Emotional Stress
     Ability to Process Information
     Aggressive Driving
   How to Control Your Emotions
     Maintaining a Responsible Attitude
     Avoid Triggering Aggressive Driving
     Identify Troublesome Situations
     Plan Ahead
     Expect Mistakes from Others
Don’t Drive When Upset or Depressed
Don’t Give in to Negative Peer Pressure
Train Yourself to Always Use the Right Procedure

2. How Vision Effects the Ability to Drive
   Good Vision is Critical to Driving Ability
   Field of Vision
   How to Compensate for Vision Problems
   Poor Depth Perception
   Contrast Sensitivity
   Color Blindness
   Night Blindness

3. Physical Condition and the Ability to Drive
   How Short-Term Illnesses or Injuries Affect Driving
   How Long-Term Physical Factors Affect Driving
   Hearing Loss Can Affect Driving Ability
   Challenges Caused by Physical Factors
   Aging and Chronic Illnesses Affect Driving Ability

4. Fatigue
   How Fatigue Affects Driving Ability
   How Drowsiness Causes Accidents

5. Distractions
   In-Car Distractions and the Effects on Driving
   Out of Car Distractions (e.g. animals)
   How Distractions Hinder Driving Ability
   Vehicle Audio Systems
   Headphones
     [Note: The use of headphones while operating a motor vehicle in Massachusetts is illegal unless such headphones are used for controlling the course of movement of the said vehicle. See M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 13.]
   Cellular Phones
     Include impact of new cell phone and texting laws
   Passengers
   Televisions
     [Note: A television forward of the back of the front seat is illegal in Massachusetts.]
   Other Distractions
Module 12 – The Dangers of Alcohol, Drugs & Driving: PART I

Revised 10/2014

The Dangers of Alcohol, Drugs & Driving: PART I

Purpose
This module is intended to teach students about the physical and mental affects alcohol and drugs have on driving skills. It is intended to educate them about the science of reduced coordination, reaction time, vision, and decision-making due to substances in the body. This should be used as an opportunity to educate new drivers about the proven scientific research regarding the affects of alcohol, medicines and other drugs on driving skills.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Describe the physical effects of alcohol and drugs
- Explain the impact of alcohol and drugs on driving skills
- Identify the myths and facts of alcohol and drugs
- List the individual’s responsibilities regarding drinking

Measurement

- Have students complete an effects of alcohol and drugs pre-test and then a post-test.
- Have students read about recent alcohol related accidents and have them identify which elements of safe driving may have failed and thus caused the accident.

Topic Outline

Alcohol and the Effects on Driving

The Effects of Alcohol

The Individual’s Responsibilities Regarding Drinking

Signs of an Impaired Driver

Affect on Driving Ability
Facts about Alcohol and Driving

Myths and Facts about Alcohol

The Physical Effects of Alcohol

Reaction Times

Coordination

Depth and Distance Perception

Speed Perception

Vision

Mental Effects of Alcohol
Module 13 – The Dangers of Alcohol, Drugs & Driving: PART II

Revised 10/2014

The Dangers of Alcohol, Drugs & Driving: PART II

Purpose
The purpose of this module is to educate new drivers about the laws related to alcohol and drug use while operating a motor vehicle and the devastating effects these penalties can have on their life. The loss of license for a period of time is probably the most socially problematic issues for them but in actuality it will also be a substantial financial burden.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- State the Massachusetts laws related to blood alcohol level, implied consent, and ignition interlock device
- Explain the drunk driving penalties in Massachusetts and the consequences to driving privileges
- Describe what will happen when a driver is stopped for alleged driving under the influence
- Identify the types of drugs that affect driving ability and how they affect driving ability

Measurement
- Have students complete a pre-test and post-test related to laws governing alcohol and drug use and the effects drugs have on driving abilities.

Topic Outline

1. Laws Governing Alcohol and Drug Use
   - Melanie’s Law
     i. Increased Drunk Driving Penalties
     ii. Ignition Interlock Devices
   - Implied Consent Law
   - Tests for Intoxication
   - Penalties and Consequences

2. BATS (Breath Alcohol Test)

3. Chemical Test Refusal (CTR) and its consequences
4. Drugs and the Effects on Driving

   The Types of Drugs that Affect Driving Ability
   The Dangers of Combining Drugs (**SYNERGISM**)  
   Over-the-Counter Drugs  
   Prescription Drugs  
   Depressants  
   Stimulants  
   Hallucinogens  
   Marijuana  
   LSD and PCP  
   Narcotics

5. How Drug Convictions Effect Your License

6. Clarification that Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Marijuana is Still Illegal  
   (from the “Illegal Drugs, Medicine, and Other Controlled Substances” section of Chapter Two of the  
   Driver’s Manual)
Module 14 – Consequences of Unsafe Driving and Poor Decision Making

Revised 10/2014

Purpose
This module is intended to teach new drivers that decision-making plays a key role in being a good driver in addition to fostering good driving skills. It is important to realize that poor decisions could severely impact the driver's life; the passengers' lives and the lives of families and friends if an accident were to occur. These decisions may also cause an emotional and a financial toll that may have a long lasting impact.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Identify examples of bad decisions affecting driving caused by social pressures
- Explain what happens in a crash and the physical and emotional impact
- Describe how driving records, suspensions, and lifetime look back influence your operator's insurance cost
- Provide examples of which type of drivers are most at risk for crashes

Measurement

- Have students complete another personality type indicator that also asks them to reflect on decision-making and its impact on driving.

Topic Outline

1. Social Pressures & Driving
   - Speeding
   - Drag Racing
   - No Seat Belts
2. Types of Crashes
3. Hit and Run Crashes (from “Traffic Crashes” section of Chapter Five of the Driver’s Manual)
4. Collisions
5. Physical & Emotional Effects to Yourself & Others
6. Brain Injury
7. Crash Statistics
8. Lifetime Look back
9. Driving Record & Suspensions
   - Suspensions for Surchargeable Events and Speeding Violations
10. Types of Insurance coverage offered
11. Discuss how insurance is effected by a crash
Purpose
This module is intended to teach new drivers about common vehicle malfunctions and roadway hazards. It is also intended to demonstrate how a safe driver, using good decision making skills, handles each situation along with the steps they should follow if ever in a vehicle accident.

Objectives
Upon completion of this module, the students should be able to:

- Identify common vehicle malfunctions and the proper way to address them
- List possible roadway hazards and how to use good decision making and driving skills to navigate the situation
- Explain the steps to follow if involved in a vehicle accident
- Complete an accident report

Part I: Handling Emergencies and Breakdowns

1. Vehicle Malfunctions

2. Roadway Hazards

3. What you should do if you are in a crash:
   - Pull to the Side of the Road, if possible
   - Stop Immediately
   - Warn Others If Possible
   - Call for Medical Help if necessary
   - Call the Police
   - Exchange Information
   - Get Names and Addresses of Witnesses
   - Stay at the Scene
   - Make Accident Reports (If Required)
   - See a Doctor (If You Have Been Injured)
4. What you should do when stopped by a Police Officer:
   Pull safely to the side of the road
   Have your license and registration available

5. Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness
   How to become an organ donor (under 18 years of age requires parental consent)
   New Organ and Tissue Donor Registration Fund

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Part II: Final Examination/Final Review

Purpose
Final Exam: To test the students knowledge of the material taught throughout the Driver Education Program.
Final Review: The final review is an opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of what students have learned in the classroom. The activities used in the final review should provide the instructor with important information regarding which students have mastered the knowledge and skills and which students need more educational support.

Method
The final review should include a variety of different activities that address the different learning styles present in the classroom.
Driver’s Education Supplemental Materials

Introduction
The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has compiled the following list of educational materials that may be used to supplement the required modules. The RMV recommends the use of additional learning tools in addition to instructor-led lecture in order to enhance the learning process and keep the student driver’s attention.

Recommended materials
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Driver’s Manual
A driver’s education textbook
Videos applicable to the topics in each module
    Videos should be followed by a discussion of the subject matter and a question and answer period.
Guest speakers
Diagrams
Daily newspaper clippings
RMV website

It is also suggested that driver education instructors test the students' knowledge through the use of measurement tools such as quizzes, handouts, and tests. For example, a recommended tool would be the use of a pre-test and a post-test. The students would receive a pre-test with questions pertaining to the module topic. This would test the student’s knowledge of the subject matter. After the module is taught or at a subsequent class the students would receive a post-test to measure their comprehension of the subject.

Module 1 – Introduction to Driver’s Education
Handouts: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Driver’s Manual

The Driver’s Manual should be used throughout the driver’s education program as it contains information that is included in each of the required modules.

    A student and/or parent letter from the Registrar

Videos: The Greatest Gift:
from the Lazarus Organ Donor Awareness Program 8 min.

    A video with the topic of good decision-making.

Module 2 – Signs, Signals & Road Markings
Diagram: Displaying signs, signals and road markings
Activity: A sign memory activity.

Module 3 – Understanding the Vehicle and Its Controls
Video: A video displaying vehicle controls and locations.
Activity: Student brings in a car owner’s manual. Instructor walks student through manual in general terms discussing the importance of certain instruments and controls.

Module 4 – Basic Driving Skills
Video: AAA: Drivers Zed
A video explaining the use of mirrors, changing lanes, and/or passing or being passed.
Handout: Use of mirrors pamphlet (Liberty Mutual Insurance has slides on how to adjust mirrors)

Module 5 – Rules of the Road
Video: MBTA/Operation Lifesaver: Why wait for the train? 24:10 min
Video explaining driving in rotaries and roundabouts.
(New York, Washington State, and Missouri DOT have information about roundabouts on their websites.)

Module 6 – Making Safe Driving Decisions
AAA: Preventing Road Rage:
Anger management for drivers 20:18 min

DDD: Aggressive Driving Video
Irish crash video clip
Taxi crash video clip
Guest Speaker: Address the importance of safe decision-making
For example, this speaker may have made poor decisions that resulted in a negative outcome.

Module 7 – Sharing the Road
Video: Cars, Motorcycles and A Common Road:
A motorist awareness program 8.5 min
Children in Traffic
### Module 8 – How Natural Laws Affect Driving

Video: AAA: Unlocking the mystery of ABS

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### Module 9 – Different Driving Environments

Video: AAA: Managing Visibility, Time and Space

Video explaining Right-of-Way rules

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### Module 10 – Driving in all Weather Conditions

Video: Show a video which demonstrates hydroplaning, skidding and regaining control of the vehicle.

Guest Speaker: Representative from law enforcement who can explain and provide examples of how weather conditions affect driving.

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### Module 11 – Mental & Physical Condition Affect Driving

Diagram or Chart: Provide students with scientific statistical information, which depicts how physical and mental condition affect the abilities of a driver

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### Module 12 – The Dangers of Alcohol, Drugs and Driving: PART I

Newspaper clippings: Provide students with newspaper articles which describe accidents caused by drivers using alcohol or drugs.

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### Module 13 – The Dangers of Alcohol, Drugs and Driving: PART II

Video: GHSB: Teen Driving and Drinking Forum

Green River Road Party: 16 min

Guest Speaker: Representative from MADD, SADD, law enforcement official, a teen convict

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### Module 14 – Consequences of Unsafe Driving & Poor Decision Making

Guest Speaker: Brain Injury Association: KEYS Program

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### Module 15 – PART I: Handling Emergencies & Breakdowns

PART II: Final Review
| Activity | Create an activity to review the driver's education curriculum they were taught. The activity should allow students to interact and participate actively in the review. A trivia game concept could provide the basic concept for this activity. |
Introduction
This section of the driver’s education curriculum is intended to list the skills and knowledge which must be taught during road driving lessons. Each student must learn and practice the skills listed in this section.

Skills
A. How to Complete a Pre-Driving Vehicle Check
- Check vehicle for properly working safety equipment (brake lights, directional lights, headlights, windshield wipers, etc)
- Check all tires for tread wear, pressure and irregular wear patterns or external damage.
- Check all warning lamps and gauges (fluid levels, brake & check engine lights etc.)
- Verify amount of fuel

B. Beginning to Drive
- Adjust vehicle seats and mirrors
- Use good driving posture and proper hand placement on the wheel
- Start the engine
- Use mirrors while driving
- Start and stop the vehicle safely
- Recognize and obey traffic signs and signals
- Proper use of directionals
- Back up the vehicle at least 50 feet (straight)
- Turn around between curbs

C. On the Road Skills
- Demonstrate how to respond to different types of road signs
- How to safely navigate the vehicle and share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists
- Demonstrate proper and safe following distances
- Enter and leave various types of intersections
- Make left and right turns with the aid of traffic lights
- Make left and right turns without the aid of traffic lights (four way stop and other types of intersections)
Changing lanes to make a turn, pass a vehicle or avoid road work
How to safely pass a vehicle
Merging with traffic
Parallel park
Stop versus yield
Start, stop, and turn the vehicle on a hill
Use hand signals
Apply common sense and good decision making when driving

D. Reacting to Unexpected Situations
How to react to all types of emergency vehicles
The Emergency Vehicle “Move Over” Law
Safely pull off the road for an emergency
How to navigate debris or animals in the road
Safely demonstrate braking techniques used for vehicles equipped with Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS) and non-ABS brakes (threshold braking)

Required Experiences
Students must be exposed to the following experiences as part of their road training.
Highway Driving including entering and existing highway, changing lanes, and passing a vehicle
Navigating an intersection without traffic signals
Practice yielding to traffic and merging with traffic
Pulling off the road safely
Navigating a rotary or roundabout
Stopping for pedestrians
Varying vehicle speeds to accommodate driving setting and road conditions
Parking the vehicle in a parking space on the side of the road and parking lot
Back ing the vehicle in and out of a parking space

Driving Observation Requirements
Students observing the driving of another student should be required to keep an observation journal which identifies the examples of good and bad driving they observed. They should then indicate in the journal why the driving was good and list examples of skills or behaviors. They should also list the skills and behaviors that caused what they considered bad driving and poor decision making.
Instructors should actively gather feedback from students observing the driving of another student and students should be prepared to discuss the instruction observed citing good and poor decisions made during the course of instruction.
Parent/Guardian Curriculum

Introduction
A new requirement of driver’s education will be at least a two hour class for parents/guardians. The intention of this class is to educate parents/guardians about the content of the driver education curriculum, the junior operator’s law and the driving skills and behaviors that their children will be learning. It is important for parents/guardians to know the skills and behaviors that they should be modeling while driving so that they can coach and mentor their children to be safe and skilled drivers.

Objectives
By the end of the class, parents should be able to:

✓ Explain the junior operator’s law and the parent/guardian’s role in supporting the law
✓ List the driving skills their child must master to pass a road test
✓ Identify the driver’s education modules and the relevance to developing good driving skills
✓ Provide examples of family member driving behaviors which may negatively influence a new driver

Topic Outline
I. Driver’s Education Overview
   Purpose and class structure
   Expectations
   Curriculum modules
II. Junior Operator’s Law
III. The Safe Driver Law
IV. Necessary Driving Skills and Behaviors
V. Parent’s Role
   Coaching and mentoring
   Supporting junior operator law
   Role model