

Driver Education Rule Revisions

December 2025 State Board of Education Meeting

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Timeline Review

Procedural Step	Anticipated Date
Discussion of Proposed Rules by State Board of Education	December 4, 2025
Vote by State Board to <i>formally propose</i> Rules	January 8, 2026
Publication of Proposed Rules in North Carolina Register	February 2, 2026
Public Comment Period	February 2, 2026 – April 3, 2026
Vote by State Board to <i>adopt</i> final Rules	May 7, 2026
Review by Rules Review Commission	June 25, 2026
Rules Take Effect	July 1, 2026

Substantive Changes



16 NCAC 06E .0301 (Definitions)

- Existing rule sets out requirements for driver education program and aligns with SBE Policy DRIV-004.
- Existing rule content moved to two new rules (06E .0304 and .0305) and replaced with a definitions rule.

16 NCAC 06E .0302 (Driver Education Instructors)

- Existing rule establishes requirements for driver education instructors who do not hold a professional educator license.
- Revised rule eliminates distinction between licensed and non-licensed instructors and sets common requirements for both.
- Expands list of instructor course to include STEP and DMV instructor course.
- Adds clear continuing education requirements for all instructors.
- PSUs are responsible for monitoring compliance.

16 NCAC 06E .0303 (Driver Education Contracts)

- Existing rule establishes requirements for contracts between commercial driver training schools and local boards of education.
- Revised rule includes mostly technical revisions and modernized language.
- Prohibits districts from charging a fee for the use of facilities or vehicles.
- Provides that any equipment or vehicles purchased with State funds remain the property of the local board.

16 NCAC 06E .0304 (Driver Education Program)

- New rule incorporates requirements for driver education program in existing Rule 06E .0301 and aligns with SBE Policy DRIV-004.
- Limits classroom instruction to 50 students.
- Codifies reporting requirements.
- Provides that State funding may be withheld from districts that fail to comply with the Rule.

16 NCAC 06E .0305 (Driving Eligibility Certificate)

- To obtain a learner's permit or driver's license, individuals between 15 and 18 who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent must have a driver eligibility certificate.
- New rule incorporates requirements for driving eligibility certificates in existing Rule 06E .0301 and aligns with SBE Policy DRIV-004.
- New rule provides for standardized approval and appeal process.

Questions

