

**MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING  
June 29, 2015  
Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA**

Chairman Blackwood called the June 29, 2015 Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 1:14 pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mr. Harris Blackwood, Chairman  
Mr. Rob Mikell, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Eddie Rish  
Mr. Wright Edge (attended by telephone)  
Mr. Kevin Boyd

**Board Members not in Attendance**

Ms. Beth Graham  
Ms. Frankie Jones

**Non-members in attendance were as follows:**

Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Ms. Toni Reddington, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Ms. Anna Rhodes, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Denae Hartsfield, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Mr. Tommy Grant, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Lynne Swaney, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Tunnizia Weston, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office  
Mr. John Fleisch, Office of Planning and Budget

Mr. Harris Blackwood led the commission in the invocation and welcomed the new general counsel Amy Millard Radley of the Georgia Attorney General's Office. Ms. Radley serves as the Assistant Attorney General and promises to be a valuable addition to the board.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Harris Blackwood presented the agenda and proposed deleting the adoption of the multi-year plan from the agenda. Mr. Eddie Rish made a motion to adopt the agenda as proposed. Mr. Rob Mikell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Please see attachment A)

**Approval of April 30, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Kevin Boyd made a motion to approve the June 29, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Eddie Rish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report**

Mr. Josh Turner presented the board with updates on GDEC activity. He discussed progress regarding scheduled vehicle and simulator deliveries to GDEC grantees and recapped the events of the 2015 Georgia Highway Safety Conference. Mr. Turner also informed the Board of the online eGOHS training, offered by Columbus Technical College, which will be available to GDEC grantees. (Please see attachment B)

**Transfer of Unused Equipment**

Stephens County High School applied for and was awarded grant funds to purchase two vehicles for driver's training purposes in 2010. Due to budget constraints in the 2015-2016 school year, Stephens County High School suspended its driver's education program. Conversely, North Georgia Technical College plans to offer driver's education courses to students in Stephens County beginning in October 2015 and is in need of vehicles to complete the behind the wheel driving instruction.

The Georgia Driver's Education Commission is responsible for the disposition of commission-funded equipment no longer in active use. Therefore, it has been resolved that the Georgia Driver's Education Commission authorizes the transfer of two (2) vehicles, a Chrysler PT Cruiser and a Pontiac G6 from Stephens County High School to North Georgia Technical College.

A motion to adopt the resolution (2016-01) was made by Mr. Eddie Rish and seconded by Mr. Kevin Boyd. The resolution was adopted unanimously. (Please see attachment C)

**FY 2015 Annual Report**

The Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015 was presented by Mr. Josh Turner. This report is required in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-21-181(b) and is submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the committee chairpersons for the standing committees in the Senate and House of Representatives that are assigned issues related to motor vehicles. The Annual Report expounds on the amount of funds collected from the additional penalty imposed for the previous three fiscal years, the amount of such funds appropriated to the commission for each corresponding year, and the manner and purposes for which such funds have been expended (Please see attachment D)

Mr. Rob Mikell made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eddie Rish.

Mr. Rob Mikell voiced concerns about formatting in the Annual Report and suggested minor changes to eliminate possible confusion regarding funding. The changes were unanimously agreed upon and the motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

Mr. Harris Blackwood announced that the Governor's Office of Highway Safety submitted a legislation proposal to the Office of the Governor on behalf of the Georgia Driver's Education Commission. In the proposal, Mr. Blackwood recommended that the sunset provision in O.C.G.A § 15-21-179 be eliminated or in the least extended for another five years. Mr. Blackwood indicated that the legislation had the support of the Georgia Department of Driver Services and the Technical College System of Georgia.

Mr. Harris Blackwood opened the floor any other business to come before the Georgia Driver's Education Commission. No additional business was submitted.

**Georgia Driver's Education Commission Meeting Minutes cont'd**  
**June 29, 2015**  
**Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA**

**Motion to Adjourn**

Mr. Kevin Boyd made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Eddie Rish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ms. Toni Reddington.

Attachments:

Director's Report

Resolution 2016-01

Annual Report

**Georgia Driver's Education Commission Meeting Minutes cont'd**  
**June 29, 2015**  
**Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA**

**Attachement "A"**

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of June 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes
5. GDEC Director's Report
6. Transfer of Unused Equipment
7. Adoption of FY 2015 Annual Report
8. ~~Adoption of Multi-Year Plan~~
9. Other Business
10. Adjourn

## **Attachment "B"**

Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Tuesday, September 15, 2015  
Director's Report

### **Technical College System of Georgia Vehicles**

Fifty Kia Optimas have been delivered and are in process of being equipped with safety equipment and vehicle wraps. We expect that each technical college will be able to receive one vehicle by October 4, 2015 and receive their remaining allocation by October 31, 2015. We will have a presentation ceremony to present the first vehicle to the TCSG Commissioner and plan to invite the Governor to participate. We will notify GDEC board members as soon as a date has been set.

### **Driving Simulator Delivery**

The first driving simulator is being delivered today. Albany Technical College received the first unit and delivery will continue over the coming six weeks.

### **Georgia Highway Safety Conference**

Sixty-eight individuals attended the driver's education tract of the Georgia Highway Safety Conference. The majority of those were driving instructors from technical colleges.

### **Grant Policies and Procedures Training**

The grant policies and procedures training will be presented in an on-line format beginning with fiscal year 2015. The presentation is currently being transferred to the digital format and will be offered to grantees by Columbus Technical College. Once the presentation is live, grantees will be able to learn how to complete reports using the eGOHS grants system and be able to review the grant terms and conditions. One of the many great advantages of having the presentation available in this format is that grantees will be able to view it on their own time reducing travel costs and it will also allow new staff to view the presentation throughout the grant year.

### **Rules and Regulations and By-laws**

GDEC staff and Assistant Attorney General Amy Milard Radley will be meeting next month to develop proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations and to draft By-laws to govern the commission. We hope to have documents available by the next board meeting.

Attachment "C"



RESOLUTION 2016-01

WHEREAS, Stephens County High School applied for and was awarded grant funds to purchase two vehicles for driver's training purposes in 2010;

WHEREAS, Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, Stephens County High School suspended its driver's education program due to budget constraints;

WHEREAS, North Georgia Technical College plans to offer driver's education courses to students in Stephens County beginning in October 2015 and is in need of vehicles to complete the behind the wheel driving instruction; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Driver's Education Commission is responsible for the disposition of commission-funded equipment no longer in active use.

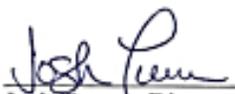
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Georgia Driver's Education Commission authorizes the transfer of a Chrysler PT Cruiser (VIN: 3A8FY58B88T202470. Tag: GV 56055.) and a Pontiac G6 (VIN 1G2ZG57N684209124. Tag: GV 56054.) from Stephens County High School to North Georgia Technical College.

This Fifteenth day of September, 2015.

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harris Blackwood, Chairman  
Georgia Driver's Education Commission

WITNESSED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Turner, Director  
Georgia Driver's Education Commission

Attachment "D"

# Georgia Driver's Education Commission



## Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2015

September 15, 2015

Josh Turner  
*Director*

*Commission Members:*  
Harris Blackwood, Chairman  
Rob Mikell, Vice Chairman  
Kevin Boyd  
Wright Edge  
Beth Graham  
Frankie Jones  
Eddie Rish

7 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Suite 643  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Phone: (404) 656-2769

Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2015

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-21-181(b), the Georgia Driver's Education Commission (GDEC) submits this report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the committee chairpersons for the standing committees in the Senate and House of Representatives that are assigned issues related to motor vehicles. This report contains data on the amount of funds collected from the additional penalty imposed for the previous three fiscal years, the amount of such funds appropriated to the commission for each corresponding year, and the manner and purposes for which such funds have been expended.

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Georgia Driver's Education Commission is to maximize participation in driver's education and training to reduce motor vehicle accidents by making driver's training accessible and affordable to all Georgians.

**Board Composition**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 15-21-173, The Georgia Driver's Education Commission shall consist of eight members who shall serve for terms of four years. The State Board of Education shall appoint one member of the commission and the Department of Driver Services shall appoint two members of the commission. The director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety shall appoint one member of the commission. The remaining four members of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be public school driver's education providers and the other two shall be private driver's education providers. The Governor shall designate a chairperson of the commission from among the members.

Chairman: Harris Blackwood, appointed by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Vice Chairman: Rob Mikell, appointed by the Department of Driver Services

Kevin Boyd, appointed by the State Board of Education

Wright Edge, appointed by the Governor and representing a public school provider

Beth Graham, appointed by the Governor and representing a public school provider

Frankie Jones, appointed by the Department of Drivers Services

Eddie Rish, appointed by the Governor and representing a private provider

There is one vacancy on the board due to ineligibility of service due to a career change.

**Problem Identification**

Motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States and is the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. In 2011, about 2,650 teens in the United States aged 16-19 were killed and almost 292,000 were treated in emergency departments for injuries suffered in motor-vehicle crashes.

In Georgia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for Georgians between the ages of 1 and 34. In 2013, there were 1,179 motor vehicle fatalities in the State of Georgia. This is a 1% decline in roadway fatalities in comparison to the previous year and a 32% decline from 2005 roadway fatalities. Also, in 2013, there were a total of 126 fatalities among young people ages 15-20 years. Of those 62 were driving and lost their lives, 49 were

**Georgia Driver's Education Commission Meeting Minutes cont'd**  
**June 29, 2015**  
**Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA**

passengers, 10 were pedestrians, and 3 were bicyclists. The number of young drivers under the age 21 involved in fatal crashes has unsteadily decreased since 2007. In 2013, the young drivers represented 10% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes (156 young drivers). In 2007 the number of young drivers involved in fatal crashes decreased by 45% (128 less drivers) in comparison to the peak in 2007. The percent of unrestrained fatalities among youth have decreased from 56% in 2005 to 55% in 2011. Restraint use among young adult drivers remains an issue. In 2013, 57 out of the 111 (51%) teen's vehicle passengers travelling in motor vehicles were unrestrained.

The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16 to 19 year-olds than among any other age group. In fact, per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are nearly three times more likely than drivers aged 20 and older to be in a fatal crash. Among teen drivers, those at especially high risk for motor vehicle crashes are males, teens driving with other teen passengers and newly licensed drivers. In 2011, the motor vehicle death rate for male drivers and passengers ages 16 to 19 was almost two times that of their female counterparts. Additionally, the presence of teen passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers and that risk increases with the number of teen passengers. Also, the risk of crashing is the highest during the first months of licensure. Teens are more likely than older drivers to underestimate dangerous situations or unable to recognize hazardous situations. Fortunately, teen motor vehicle crashes are preventable, and proven strategies can improve the safety of young drivers on the road.

**Georgia Driver's Education Commission History**

On May 10, 2005, as a result of the passage of a law which became known as Joshua's Law (O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22), the Georgia Driver's Education Commission was created. The GDEC was established to recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly changes in state programs, statutes, policies, budgets and standards relating to the provision of driver education and training. Since its inception, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission has worked to identify options for teen drivers to satisfy the driver education requirements mandated under state law. Under Joshua's law, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission is allowed to collect a surcharge (originally 5%, now 1.5%) of the State's traffic fines for establishing a grant to fund state approved driver education programs. The Governor's Office of Highway Safety was requested to facilitate the allocation and application of the Georgia Driver's Education funds. This grant program was authorized on April 11, 2007. The goal of this program was to generate the highest return on the Georgia Driver's Education Commission investment and thereby improve the performance of beginning licensed drivers while making driver safety training accessible and affordable. During fiscal year (FY) 2008, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission awarded 35 grants which consisted of 14 new start-up programs and 21 efforts to enhance or expand established training programs. Seven (7) new and sixteen (16) existing programs were awarded in FY 2009 along with twenty-three (23) carry-forward grantees from the prior year. Beginning with FY 2010 (the third year of funding) only carry-forward grants were permitted because of budget constraints in the State. In FY 2011, the program was suspended until further appropriations were made available. In May of 2013, the Governor signed Senate Bill 231, which extended the sunset provision until June 30, 2016. The legislation also reduced the amount of the surcharge collect on traffic citations from 5% to 1.5%.

**Funding History**

Year	Amount of Funds Collected	Amount of Funds Appropriated to the Commission
2012	\$10,655,668.04	\$0.00
2013	\$10,061,393.72	\$0.00
2014*	\$5,665,150.75	\$0.00
2015	\$3,746,817.95	\$5,665,150
*Fine reduced from 5% to 1.5% effective May 6, 2013 upon signature of the governor. The fine percentage is determined by the date of offense, not the date of adjudication. Therefore, some fines paid in FY 2014 and FY 2015 may have resulted from citations prior to the change in statute and were assessed at 5%.		

**Program Area**

In a Request for Grant Proposals issued on April 30, 2015, The Georgia Driver's Education Commission sought grant applications for the disbursement of available funds to promote the development and implementation of innovative programs for purposes of providing driver education and training. The Request for Grant Proposals was sent to every public and private high school in Georgia, as well as the driver's education director representing a public or private high school who is licensed to operate a driver's training school registered with the Georgia Department of Drivers Services. Specifically, programs were sought that were seeking to:

- Promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law" (through a 30 hour classroom instruction driver education along with 6 hours of behind the wheel driver training instruction); and
- Promote the advancement and further the missions of the GDEC with grant programs to facilitate knowledge and application of traffic safety rules, regulations, and procedures necessary for the safety of licensed beginning drivers.

**Program Eligibility**

The following program eligibility was instituted:

1. Potential grantees/partners include, but is not limited to: Georgia high schools (public and private), colleges and universities (public and private), state agencies, and not-for-profit organizations.
2. Potential grantee(s) must provide an organizational management plan that clearly outlines the channels of communication and responsibility and must be attached as an attachment within the application under the document attachment section of the application.

**Georgia Driver's Education Commission Meeting Minutes cont'd**  
**June 29, 2015**  
**Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA**

3. Full time positions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the project objectives of the grant. (Job descriptions must be attached for each personnel position requested in the application.)
4. Potential grantee(s) must demonstrate its willingness and ability to accept and implement the planned programs by showing staffing, equipment, office space and other resources that will be dedicated to this effort.
5. Potential grantee(s) must report in the grant application whether or not its organization collects and is willing to disseminate critical data necessary to demonstrate the effectiveness of a before and after project impact. Programs planned, implemented and evaluated must be "specific" and focused on driver training and education. Evaluation tools must measure outcomes and the potential grantees must be able to show that data were decreased or increased as applicable in all emphasis areas at the end of the grant. All exceptions must be documented and explained. Potential grantees will be required to collect and report to GDEC required data on driver training programs that are supported by this grant application to demonstrate the required change.
6. Programs planned should be necessary programs that will reach the goals stated. Programs that are "nice," or "feel good," or evaluated by anecdotal comments should not be proposed. All evaluations plans must be well documented in the application.
7. The cost for developing the proposal is the sole responsibility of the potential grantee. GDEC will not provide reimbursement for such costs.
8. Applications submitted must include letters of support/references from at least two of the following: local law enforcement, school systems, local safety advocate organizations, government subdivisions (mayor, city council, county commission, etc.), driving schools, medical organizations, etc.
9. GDEC will reimburse awarded grantees based on monthly or quarterly (whichever is applicable to the awarded grant) approved/implemented project activities and expenditures through an Automated Clearing House (ACH) payment.
10. GDEC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted in response to this request.
11. Awarded grantee(s) must be willing to submit monthly or quarterly (whichever is applicable) activity reports concurrent with a monthly claim for reimbursement report utilizing eGOHS by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the following month. The claim for reimbursement report must be submitted and approved in order to be reimbursed for activities/services rendered.
12. Non-profit organizations must be willing to adhere by GDEC requirements for Non-Profit Organizations.

13. Applications must receive a rating of 70% or above to be considered for funding. Applicants receiving a rating of 69% and below will not be funded by GDEC.

**Response to Request for Grants Proposal**

In total, fifty four (54) organizations registered to attend a mandatory informational workshop required for grant applicants. Of those fifty four (54) organizations and schools, only thirteen (13) different schools and organizations submitted an application for Fiscal Year 2015 grant funds. Of the thirteen (13) schools and organizations submitting an application, only nine (9) were awarded grants. Any applicant requesting grant assistance who did not meet the minimum requirement of the Request for Grant Proposals were referred to a Technical College to form a partnership for driver's education funded by the Georgia Driver's Education Commission.

**Funds Awarded**

In compliance with the Georgia Driver's Education Commission Request for Grants Proposals, grantees were encouraged to use grant funds to effectively deliver driver's education and training. Below is a listing of the grants awarded for Fiscal Year 2015.

<p><b><u>Elbert County Comprehensive High School</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b>  <b>\$57,720</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: Elbert County Driver's Education Grant 2015</b>                  Through grant funding from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission (GDEC), Elbert County Comprehensive High School will continue its current driver training and education program. With these funds, they will continue to promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Drivers Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law", by delivering a 30 hour classroom instruction driver education along with 6 hours of behind the wheel driver training instruction during the grant period.</p> <p>They have received funding and approval from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission to purchase one (1) vehicle, mandated safety equipment for the vehicle, curriculum material for classroom instruction, and two driving simulators.</p>
<p><b><u>Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b>  <b>\$110,100</b></p> <p><b>Students Trained in FY 2015: 104</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: Safety for Young Drivers with Disabilities</b>                  The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) plans to enhance and promote safety for young drivers with disabilities through evaluation, education and training.</p> <p>Through grant funding from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission (GDEC), GVRA will replace two (2) vehicles with mandated safety equipment for driver's education at their</p>

Georgia Driver's Education Commission Meeting Minutes cont'd

June 29, 2015

Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA

	<p>Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS) Driver's Education Program to serve more youth with disabilities.</p> <p>GVRA will purchase one Toyota Sienna van and one KIA Optima sedan along with necessary conversions for accommodations of a wide variety of disabilities for the RWS drivers' safety program.</p>
<p><b><u>Madison County High School</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b> <b>\$21,080</b></p> <p><b>Students Trained in FY 2015: 71</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: Madison County High School Driver Education and Training Program</b></p> <p>Madison County High School is committed to driver training and education for students. Through grant funding from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission, they now have resources to continue to promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Drivers Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law", by delivering a 30 hour classroom instruction driver education along with 6 hours of behind the wheel driver training instruction during the grant period.</p> <p>They have received funding and approval from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission to purchase one (1) vehicle, mandated safety equipment for the vehicle, and curriculum material for classroom instruction.</p>
<p><b><u>Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b> <b>\$364,190</b></p> <p><b>Students Trained in FY 2015: 2,180</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: Grant to enhance and expand Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education</b></p> <p>Through grant funding from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission (GDEC), Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education will enhance and expand their current driver training and education program. With these funds, they will continue to promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Drivers Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law", by delivering a 30 hour classroom instruction driver education along with 6 hours of behind the wheel driver training instruction during the grant period.</p> <p>Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education has received GDEC funding and approval to replace twenty (20) vehicles that would be going out of service in FY 2016 with mandated safety equipment, training aids and driver education curriculum.</p>

<p><b><u>Pinewood Christian Academy</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b> <b>\$60,630</b></p> <p><b>Students Trained in FY 2015: 44</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: Driver's Education and Training Program</b></p> <p>Through grant funding from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission, Pinewood Christian Academy is providing driver training and education to teens in Evans County. Their program will promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law", by delivering a 30 hour classroom instruction driver education along with 6 hours of behind the wheel driver training instruction during the grant period.</p> <p>Pinewood Christian Academy has received GDEC funding and approval to purchase one (1) vehicle for use during the behind the wheel portion of driver training instruction, mandated safety equipment for the vehicle, training aids, and driver education curriculum as approved in the grant. As a recipient of this grant, Pinewood Christian Academy also purchased three (3) driving simulators equipped with software to create a fully interactive computer generated driving environment.</p>
<p><b><u>Technical College System of Georgia</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b> <b>\$999,840</b></p> <p><b>Students Trained in FY 2015: 1,110</b></p> <p>*Only nine technical colleges had existing programs in 2015 and operated on a limited capacity due to lack of resources</p>	<p><b>Program Title: Technical College System of Georgia Driver's Education and Training Program</b></p> <p>The Technical College System of Georgia's goal to provide driver's education and driver training to young Georgians is being achieved with the aid of grant funding from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission (GDEC) and by partnering with Georgia's technical colleges providing Driver's Education. This funding is critical to TCSG's goal to promote, aid, and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) approved driver training course (30 hour classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind the wheel experience) for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law".</p> <p>TCSG is working to promote the advancement and further the missions of the GDEC with grant programs to facilitate knowledge and application of traffic safety rules, regulations, and procedures necessary for the safety of licensed beginning drivers.</p> <p>In their efforts to reach these goals, TCSG received GDEC funding and approval to purchase fifty (50) Kia Optimas, mandated safety equipment, training aids and curriculum and classroom material for distribution to technical colleges throughout Georgia for use in their individual driver education and training programs.</p>

<p><b><u>Thomas County Central High School</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b> \$32,160</p> <p><b>Students Trained in FY 2015: 418</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: FY15 Equipment Grant</b></p> <p>Grant funding from the Georgia Driver's Education Commission has created the opportunity for Thomas County Central High School to provide driver training and education to students in Thomas County.</p> <p>Their program will promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law", by delivering a 30 hour classroom instruction driver education along with 6 hours of behind the wheel driver training instruction during the grant period.</p> <p>Thomas County Central High School received GDEC funding and approval to purchase one (1) vehicle, mandated safety equipment for the vehicle, computer equipment to further enhance the quality of their program and driver education curriculum.</p>
<p><b><u>Thomasville City Schools</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b> \$226,500</p> <p><b>Students Trained in FY 2015: 156</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: Driver's Education and Training Expansion</b></p> <p>Thomasville City Schools is continuing to promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as "Joshua's Law" by delivering a 30 hour classroom instruction driver education along with 6 hours of behind the wheel driver training instruction during the grant period.</p> <p>Aided by funds from this grant, the school system is able to continue their high quality program with the added benefit of being able to purchase fifteen (15) driving simulators equipped with software to create a fully interactive computer generated driving environment for use during in class instructional time, two (2) vehicles for use during the behind the wheel portion of driver training instruction, and mandated safety equipment for the vehicles.</p>
<p><b><u>Warren County High School</u></b></p> <p><b>Amount of Funding:</b> \$111,680</p> <p><b>Students Trained in</b></p>	<p><b>Program Title: Driver Education Program Improvement</b></p> <p>Warren County High School is continuing to promote, aid and encourage the successful completion of a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) approved driver training course for students who desire to qualify for a Georgia Class D driver's license as required by O.C.G.A § 40-5-22, also known as</p>



<p><b>Scholarship Program with the Technical College System of Georgia Funding: \$1,450,000</b></p>	<p><b><u>Scholarship Program</u></b> The Georgia Driver's Education Commission entered into an agreement with the Technical College System of Georgia on May 4, 2015 to provide scholarships for driver's education to young Georgians seeking to complete thirty (30) hours of classroom driver's education instruction and six (6) hours of behind the wheel driver's education with an instructor. Twenty (20) of the Technical College System of Georgia's twenty two (22) colleges are participating under this agreement. As part of the agreement, the colleges will receive \$350 for each student who completes the driver's education course.</p>
<p><b>Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University's Research and Evaluation Study Funding \$58,008</b></p>	<p><b><u>Research and Evaluation Study</u></b> The Georgia Driver's Education Commission believes that research and evaluation should be an important component of every grant funding projects. Therefore, the Commission entered into an agreement with the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University to evaluate the effectiveness of driver's training in Georgia over a ten (10) year period. This contract is considered a planning phase to determine the resources that would be needed to conduct the long-term study and to identify the partners necessary to make the study successful.</p>
<p><b>Commission Operational Funding: \$100,285.50</b></p>	<p><b><u>Operational Funding</u></b> The Georgia Driver's Education Commission operated on a 2% administrative costs budget for Fiscal Year 2015 for expenses including staffing, travel, board meeting expenses, and office administration. The Commission employs a director who administers the day-to-day operations of the Commission and an administrative assistant who assists external and internal partners with needs as it relates to the Commission.</p>