



GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019



Commission Members:

Allen Poole, Chairman
Spencer R. Moore, Vice Chairman
Alfred Barber
Kevin Boyd
Beth Graham
Lidell Greenway
Malika Reed Wilkins

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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 on traffic citations for driver's education 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 crashes 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.



Allen Poole, Chairman

Director,
Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Appointed by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

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Spencer R. Moore, Vice Chairman

Commissioner,
Department of Driver Services
Appointed by the Department of Driver Services

Alfred Barber

President,
Barber's Driving School
Appointed by the Governor representing private driver's education providers

Kevin Boyd

State Board of Education, Ninth District Representative
Appointed by the State Board of Education

Beth Graham

Driving
Instructor, Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education
Appointed by the Governor representing public driver's education providers

Lidell Greenway

Vice President for Facilities, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
Appointed by the Governor representing public driver's education providers

Malika Reed Wilkins

Sr. Principal, Transportation Marketing Manager,
Atlanta Regional Commission
Appointed by the Department of Driver Services

Vacancy

Appointed by the Governor representing private driver's education providers



PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA), February 2019 Traffic Safety Facts report on young drivers (DOT HS 812 753), there were 1,830 young drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 years old who died in motor vehicle crashes which is a 4 percent decrease since 2016. Additionally, the report says that there were 4,750 total fatalities involving young drivers in 2017, which is a 33 percent decrease since 2008. The report goes on to state that there were more fatalities of occupants in other vehicles than there were passenger fatalities of young drivers. In fact, an alarmingly 66 percent of passengers who died in crashes with young people driving were also between the ages of 15 and 20 years old.

The National Center for Health Statistics reported that motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of death for 15-20 year olds. Also, according to NHTSA's report on young drivers, "there were 225.3 million licensed drivers in the United States in 2017" and "young drivers accounted for 5.4 percent (12.1 million) of the total in 2017, an 9.0-percent decrease from the 13.3 million young drivers in 2008, but a 0.3-percent increase from the 12.1 million young drivers in 2016." "Population for this age group decreased by 4.2 percent from 2008 to 2017."

Unfortunately, the national trends holds in Georgia with motor vehicle crashes being the leading cause of death for Georgians between the ages of 1 and 34. In 2017, there were a total of 202 motor vehicle fatalities involving young drivers between the ages of 15 and 20. Of those, 71 were driving and lost their lives, 41 were passengers in vehicles driven by young drivers, 66 were occupants of other vehicles, and 24 were non non-occupants (pedestrians or bicyclists). In 2017, 13.1 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities occurred in crashes involving a young driver.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web report on teen driving Teen Driving, Get the Facts, reports that teens are at a higher risk of being in a motor vehicle crash than any other age group. The report went on to detail that "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" and stated that among teen drivers, those at especially high risk for motor vehicle crashes are males, teens driving with other teen passengers and newly licensed drivers. Additionally, the report highlighted that the presence of teen passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers and that risk increases with the number of teen passengers, the risk of crashing is the highest during the first months of licensure, and teens are more likely than older drivers to underestimate dangerous situations or unable to recognize hazardous situations. The report also identified the eight "danger zones" of teen driving and leading causes of teen crashes as driver inexperience, driving with teen passengers, nighttime driving, not using seat belts, distracted driving, drowsy driving, reckless driving, and impaired driving.

Fortunately, teen motor vehicle crashes are preventable and proven strategies can improve the safety of young drivers on the road through effective driver's education. Although these statistics paint a tragic picture, there are ways to reduce the risk of crashes, injuries and fatalities on Georgia roadways. While our highway safety partners across Georgia will focus on other techniques to reduce injuries and fatalities on our highways, fostering and facilitating strong driver's education remains a paramount and effective component in the fight to reduce injuries and fatalities among young Georgians on our roadways.

COMMISSION HISTORY

Senate Bill 225 (2005), known as Joshua's Law, created the Georgia Driver's Education Commission for the purpose of recommending to the Governor and General Assembly changes in state programs, statutes, policies, budgets and standards relating to the provision of driver's education and training. Since its inception, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission has worked to identify options for teen drivers to satisfy the driver's education requirements mandated by state law for young Georgians. Joshua's Law created a surcharge on all traffic citations in Georgia (originally 5%, now 1.5%), to establish funding to support driver's education programs throughout Georgia. In April of 2007, through an agreement between the Georgia Department of Driver Services and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, The Governor's Office of Highway Safety facilitated the allocation of the Georgia Driver's Education Commission funds by way of grant funding to support driver's education programs. During fiscal years 2007 through 2010, 58 programs received grant funding to create or support existing driver's education programs at public schools and libraries. In fiscal year 2011, the grant program was suspended due to lack of budget appropriation during the economic recession. The surcharge on traffic citations continued to be collected and appropriated to other programs.

During the 2013 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly, Senate Bill 231 extended the sunset of the Georgia Driver's Education Commission until June 30, 2016 and reduced the amount of the surcharge collection from 5 percent to 1.5 percent. Budget appropriations resumed in Fiscal Year 2015 and the Commission has since provided training to over 17,000 Georgia students. After budget appropriations resumed, the Commission continued support of existing driver's education programs at high schools and executed a contract with the Technical College System of Georgia to establish a scholarship program for driver's education. HB 806 during the 2016 legislative session extended the sunset to June 30, 2019 and assigned the Georgia Driver's Education Commission to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for administrative purposes.

In fiscal year 2017, the Commission suspended the support of driver's education programs and launched the Georgia Driver's Education Commission Grant Scholarship Program in March of 2017. The program, open to public (public high school, technical colleges, universities, and other state-owned driver education programs) and privately owned (commercial, for-profit driving schools and non-profit organizations, and private schools) awards driver's education grant scholarships to students ages 15-17 years old who seek to complete a 36 hour (30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind the wheel instruction with an approved instructor) driver's education program.

Scholarships are awarded on a tiered priority system. First priority is given to grant scholarship applicants who are a child or dependent of a public safety professional or member of the United States military killed in the line of duty. Second priority is given to scholarship applicants who can demonstrate a need based on family income (financial need eligibility is based on 125% of the free and reduced priced school meal eligibility for Georgia). Third priority is given to all applicants who do not meet the criteria set forth in the first priority and second priority outlined above. All of the applicants in the first priority are awarded before the second priority applicants; and all of the second priority applicants are awarded before third priority applicants are awarded a grant scholarship. If more grant scholarship applications are submitted than grant scholarships available in each priority level, grant scholarships are awarded using a computer generated random selection method from the priority level applications. Grant scholarships are evenly distributed among Georgia's United States congressional districts to ensure that all Georgians are considered despite geographical location.

The Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program was continued in fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 ACTIVITIES

In fiscal year 2019, the Commission awarded 5,632 driver's education scholarships through the Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship program, an increase of 2.7 percent from fiscal year 2018 despite a decrease in funding. Of the 5,632 scholarships awarded, 668 students forfeited scholarships or chose not to complete driver's education through an authorized provider in the program. The remaining 4,964 students who completed driver's education represents a value of \$2,037,391.78 paid in driver's education grant scholarships.

Below is a listing of the driver's education providers participating in the program, with the number of training locations operated by each provider, the number of scholarships redeemed by each provider, and the financial value of the scholarships redeemed by each provider.

Provider Name	Number of Locations	Number of Scholarships Redeemed	Value of Scholarships Redeemed
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	18	893	\$379,497.00
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	1	339	\$152,211.00
A+ Driving Services, Inc.	7	170	\$84,150.00
Marietta City Board of Education	1	170	\$65,450.00
West Metro Driving School	1	164	\$73,800.00
New London School of Driving Inc.	1	135	\$66,825.00
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	4	131	\$45,850.00
Gwinnett County Board Of Education	8	127	\$43,815.00
Lanier Technical College	5	123	\$43,050.00
South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	2	122	\$54,900.00
Savannah Technical College	4	117	\$40,950.00
Central Georgia Technical College	2	115	\$40,250.00
Southern Crescent Technical College	4	113	\$39,550.00
Taggart's Driving School	3	112	\$55,440.00
Augusta Technical College	1	109	\$38,150.00
Southern Regional Technical College	3	106	\$37,100.00
DriveSmart Systems, Inc.	3	104	\$51,896.00
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	3	98	\$34,300.00
Advance Driving Academy	1	87	\$33,060.00
North Georgia Technical College	3	85	\$29,750.00
Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	1	80	\$32,945.00
Dickerson Driving School, Inc.	2	79	\$39,105.00

AABACUS, Inc.	2	76	\$36,350.00
Ogeechee Technical College	2	70	\$24,500.00
Safety 1st Driver Education	2	68	\$27,132.00
Albany Technical College	2	67	\$23,450.00
Coastal Pines Technical College	5	65	\$22,750.00
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	1	65	\$27,625.00
Oconee Fall Line Technical College	3	65	\$22,750.00
Southeastern Regional Driving and Safety Academy, Inc.	1	62	\$24,490.00
Classic VIP Driving School, LLC	1	53	\$20,988.00
Georgia Piedmont Technical College	3	50	\$17,500.00
West Georgia Technical College	6	48	\$16,800.00
A Driving Advantage	1	45	\$20,250.00
Executive Results DUI & Defensive Driving School, LLC	1	44	\$18,700.00
Jones Driver Education School of Augusta, Inc.	1	43	\$18,060.00
SGG Enterprises, Inc.	2	43	\$21,285.00
AA Academy of Action Driving School	1	42	\$21,000.00
Duluth DUI and Driving School	1	39	\$18,075.00
Atlanta Technical College	1	38	\$13,300.00
FB Driving, Inc.	1	38	\$13,705.00
Southeastern Technical College	2	36	\$12,600.00
Just Driver Training	1	33	\$16,500.00
Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	2	31	\$15,442.03
1st United Driving & DUI School	1	27	\$12,690.00
Towne Lake Driving School, LLC	1	26	\$12,610.00
Oconee County Board of Education	1	25	\$9,999.00
South Georgia Technical College	2	24	\$8,400.00
Athens Technical College	1	23	\$8,050.00
Columbus Technical College	2	23	\$8,050.00
Rockdale-Newton Driving School	1	21	\$10,395.00
Calhoun City Board of Education	1	19	\$5,510.00
Gordon County Board of Education	2	17	\$5,015.00
Southern Defensive Driving School	1	15	\$5,925.00
All Star Driver Education, Inc.	1	8	\$2,546.95
First Class Defensive Driving	1	8	\$2,800.00
White County Board of Education	1	8	\$2,000.00
Safe America Foundation, Inc.	1	7	\$3,318.00
Ms. June's Driving Lessons	2	5	\$1,924.80
Drive Again Driving School	1	4	\$1,512.00
Preston Driving School	1	2	\$1,000.00
Thomas County Board of Education	1	2	\$350.00
62 Authorized Providers	142	4,964	\$2,037,391.78
	Locations		

FUNDING HISTORY

Fiscal Year	Amount of Funds Collected*	Amount of Funds Appropriated to the Commission*
2017	\$3,095,265.73	\$3,313,516.00
2018	\$3,004,583.73	\$3,095,265.73
2019	\$2,978,971.07	\$3,004,583.73
<p>* “It is the intent of the General Assembly that, subject to appropriation, an amount equal to such proceeds received from such fines in any fiscal year shall be made available during the following fiscal year to the commission.”</p> <p>O.C.G.A. § 15-21-181</p>		



GEORGIA TEEN DRIVER'S LICENSE INSURANCES AND DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMPLETION METHOD

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Number of Individuals Issued Instructional Permit “CP” at Age 15	76,028	80,132	80,121	82,923
Number of Individuals Issued Class D License under Age 17	53,566	52,519	54,418	54,924
Number of Individuals Issued Class D License at age 17	30,716	30,224	31,853	31,308
Number of teens waiting until 18 to obtain license (not required to complete driver’s education)	44,334	46,019	47,310	49,647
Method 1: 30 hours of classroom instruction at a DDS approved school, 6 hours of behind the wheel training at a DDS approved school, and 40 hours of supervised driving with a parent/guardian.	37%	38%	39%	37%
Method 2: 30 hours of classroom instruction at a DDS approved school, and completion of the Parent Teen Driving Guide at a DDS approved school.	7%	7%	5%	5%
Method 3: DDS approved school Online course (Virtual), 6 hours of behind the wheel training at a DDS approved school, and 40 hours of supervised driving with a parent/guardian.	5%	4%	4%	5%
Method 4: DDS approved school Online course (Virtual) and completion of the Parent Teen Driving Guide (no additional supervised driving required).	51%	51%	52%	53%

Data Provided by the Georgia Department of Driver Services



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