

**MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING
September 26, 2017
Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA**

Chairman Blackwood called the June 26, 2017 Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members in Attendance

Mr. Harris Blackwood, Chairman
Mr. Spencer Moore, Vice Chairman
Mr. Alfred Barber
Ms. Beth Graham
Ms. Lidell Greenway

Board Members not in Attendance

Mr. Kevin Boyd
Mr. Eddie Rish
Ms. Malika Reed Wilkins

Non-members in attendance were as follows:

Mr. Barry Schrenk, Taggart's Driving School and registered lobbyist for Georgia Association of Risk Reduction and Defensive Driving Educators
Mr. Jim Andrews, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. Ricky Rich, Georgia Department of Drivers Services
Ms. Kecia Bivins, Georgia Department of Driver Services
Ms. Brittany Thompson, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Mr. Jimmy Sumner, Georgia Department of Driver Services
Ms. Kimberly Daniels, Attorney General's Office
Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Ms. Vita Jordan, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. Virgil Smith, Drive Again Driving School
Ms. Renee Eady, A Driving Advantage
Mr. Robert Hydrick, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. June Brand, Female Driving Instructor School

Welcome

Chairman Harris Blackwood welcomed board members, staff and others present.

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Blackwood presented the agenda. Mr. Al Barber made a motion to adopt the agenda as proposed. Ms. Beth Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Blackwood presented the meeting minutes from the June 26, 2017 meeting. Ms. Lidell Greenway made a motion to approve the June 26, 2017 meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Moore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Chairman Harris Blackwood introduced Mr. Josh Turner to present the staff report.

Mr. Turner presented the July, August, and September scholarship reports. Further, Mr. Turner explained that due to a malfunction with the online scholarship application and processing system, that all 1,181 applicants in July were approved once the system outage was resolved. Due to testing of the software repairs, there were two awards in the month of August and all applicants were awarded. In September, 972 students applied and 800 were awarded scholarships and 172 applications were denied.

Mr. Barber asked if September was the first month that students were denied. Mr. Turner responded that the Commission intended to only award 800 scholarships in August and September which would have resulted in scholarship denials but due to the system malfunction all were awarded and confirmed that September was the first month in which scholarships were denied.

Mr. Barber asked Mr. Turner to explain why the scholarships were denied. Mr. Turner stated that the Commission did not have enough funds to award all scholarship applications throughout the year and that the Commission staff will monitor the budget and the number of scholarships redeemed and the monetary value associated with each scholarship to determine the amount that can be awarded monthly.

Mr. Barber asked Mr. Turner to explain how the scholarships are awarded among the fourteen Congressional districts. Mr. Turner explained that before any congressional district is awarded two scholarships each congressional district will be awarded one. However that doesn't mean that if 5 apply in one district and 10 apply in the another, that all of those 10 in the second congressional won't be awarded. Mr. Barber stated that it's a little different than saying we have 800 divided by 14? Mr. Turner stated yes.

Chairman Blackwood stated we will probably learn in the next month or two an indication of where we may be in terms of the mid-year adjustment on the budget. That officially comes out when the governor make his budget presentation in January. They make a good faith estimate of what the money will be in terms of what the fines will generate and when the supplemental or amended budget is presented in January then we will know the money with certainty we have to operate right now on what we have.

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July Scholarship Report

	7/20/2017 Applied	7/20/2017 Applied %	7/20/2017 Approved	7/20/2017 Approved %	7/20/2017 Rejected	7/20/2017 Rejected %
1	37	3%	37	3%	0	0
2	82	7%	82	7%	0	0
3	102	9%	102	9%	0	0
4	102	9%	102	9%	0	0
5	46	4%	46	4%	0	0
6	47	4%	47	4%	0	0
7	73	6%	73	6%	0	0
8	71	6%	71	6%	0	0
9	103	9%	103	9%	0	0
10	75	6%	75	6%	0	0
11	157	13%	157	13%	0	0
12	76	6%	76	6%	0	0
13	93	8%	93	8%	0	0
14	117	10%	117	10%	0	0
Total	1181	100%	1181	100%	0	0

Tier 1	1	0%	1	0%	0	0
Tier 2	615	52%	615	52%	0	0
Tier 3	565	48%	565	48%	0	0
Total	1181	100%	1181	100%	0	0

August Scholarship Report*

District	8/3/2017 Applied	8/3/2017 Applied %	8/3/2017 Approved	8/3/2017 Approved %	8/3/2017 Approved	8/3/2017 Approved %
1	9	3%	9	3%	0	0
2	26	9%	26	9%	0	0
3	25	8%	25	8%	0	0
4	31	10%	31	10%	0	0
5	21	7%	21	7%	0	0
6	8	3%	8	3%	0	0
7	19	6%	19	6%	0	0
8	24	8%	24	8%	0	0
9	30	10%	30	10%	0	0
10	17	6%	17	6%	0	0
11	32	10%	32	10%	0	0

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12	17	6%	17	6%	0	0
13	23	8%	23	8%	0	0
14	23	8%	23	8%	0	0
Total	305	100%	305	100%	0	0

Tier 1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Tier 2	157	51%	157	51%	0	0
Tier 3	148	49%	148	49%	0	0
Total	305	100%	305	100%	0	0

District	8/20/2017 Applied	8/20/2017 Applied %	8/20/2017 Approved	8/20/2017 Approved %	8/20/2017 Rejected	8/20/2017 Rejected %
1	31	5%	31	5%	0	0
2	32	5%	32	5%	0	0
3	53	8%	53	8%	0	0
4	58	9%	58	9%	0	0
5	21	3%	21	3%	0	0
6	27	4%	27	4%	0	0
7	35	5%	35	5%	0	0
8	54	8%	54	8%	0	0
9	48	7%	48	7%	0	0
10	67	10%	67	10%	0	0
11	82	12%	82	12%	0	0
12	38	6%	38	6%	0	0
13	55	8%	55	8%	0	0
14	74	11%	74	11%	0	0
Total	675	100%	675	100%	0	0

Tier 1	1	0%	1	0%	0	0
Tier 2	360	53%	360	53%	0	0
Tier 3	314	47%	314	47%	0	0
Total	675	100%	675	100%	0	0

September Scholarship Report

District	9/20/2017 Applied	9/20/2017 Applied %	9/20/2017 Approved	9/20/2017 Approved %	9/20/2017 Rejected	9/20/2017 Rejected %
1	44	5%	44	6%	0	0%

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2	66	7%	55	7%	11	6%
3	85	9%	61	8%	24	14%
4	91	9%	83	10%	8	5%
5	41	4%	38	5%	3	2%
6	31	3%	31	4%	0	0%
7	76	8%	65	8%	11	6%
8	59	6%	54	7%	5	3%
9	60	6%	60	8%	0	0%
10	101	10%	64	8%	37	22%
11	111	11%	71	9%	40	23%
12	51	5%	49	6%	2	1%
13	67	7%	61	8%	6	3%
14	89	9%	64	8%	25	15%
Total	972	100%	800	100%	172	100%

Tier 1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Tier 2	529	54%	529	66%	0	0%
Tier 3	443	46%	271	34%	172	100%
Total	972	100%	800	100%	172	100%

FY 2018 First Quarter Customer Service Report

Provider Email Inquiries	605
Parent Email Inquiries	342
Voicemails Received	125
Invoices Approved	1,025

Consider Adoption of Amendments to Student and Provider Eligibility Requirements for Grant Scholarship Program

Chairman Blackwood recognized Mr. Turner to present the proposed changes to the Student and Provider Eligibility Requirements for the Grant Scholarship Program. Mr. Turner stated there are two changes proposed. The first is in paragraph A-10 and would allow students to request a one-time 60 day extension to the 180 day course completion deadline.

The second proposed change is in paragraph B-9 by simple adding a statement that the Commission agrees that contacts will not be amended to accommodate fee increases.

Chairman Blackwood asked if there were any comments about these proposals.

Mr. Barber asked if a student completed their classroom portion only and the provider invoiced for the classroom, can a student come back later for the behind the wheel portion and the provider invoice for the behind the wheel separately. Mr. Turner replied that providers could not bill separately as the online system was designed to have the full course billed at one.

Ms. Lidell Greenway commented that the 60 day extension request would be a tremendous help to the providers.

Mr. Al Barber made a motion to approve the Amendments to the Student and Provider Eligibility Requirements for the Grant Scholarship Program. Ms. Beth Graham seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Chairman Blackwood presented the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report for consideration.

Mr. Al Barber made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report. Ms. Lidell Greenway seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 Commission Meetings

Chairman Blackwood presented the proposed meeting schedule for the Commission for fiscal year 2018. The dates proposed were December 21, 2017, March 27, 2018 and June 26, 2018. The time for all meetings is 1:30 pm.

Vice Chairman Moore made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2018 Commission Meeting Schedule. Mr. Al Barber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Chairman Blackwood opened the floor for other business.

Ms. Renee Eady asked when we change the amount of time a student has does that extend to the students you already have and not just future students. Mr. Turner replied yes that students already approved could request the extension, but Mr. Turner asked that providers have patience as the staff and software developers make this correction.

Mr. Al Barber wanted to take time to Thank Chairman Blackwood, Mr. Turner and the staff who are working to make the Commission run smoothly.

Mr. Barry Shrink also expressed his thanks to the staff and that everyone working hard for the industry to make this program success.

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There was no other business or public comments to come before the Commission.

Ms. Lidell Greenway made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Thompson

DRAFT