Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Commission Members:
Allen Poole, Chairman
Dr. Andrea D. Daniel
Angelique B. McClendon
J. Barry Schrenk
Kathy L. Watts

Georgia Driver's Education Commission
2 Martin Luther King Jr Drive SE• Suite 370 • Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Telephone: 404.656.2769 • Email: gdec@gohs.ga.gov
www.gahighwaysafety.org/gdec/

PUBLIC NOTICE: GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Georgia Driver's Education Commission will conduct its third quarter Commission meeting on June 9, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually. Atlanta, Georgia 30334.To access the meeting, please visit: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/284755253510793?p=cfUr0XoMvcR7LL75GY Meeting documents will be posted to https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/gdec-resources/ by 1:00 pm on September 21, 2026.

1	Call to Order	*Allen Poole*	
2	Roll Call	*Josh Turner*	
3	Adoption of Agenda	*Allen Poole*	
4	Approval of June 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes	*Allen Poole*	Page 2
5	Public Comments	*Allen Poole*	
6	Staff Report Scholarship Reports for July 2026, August 2026, and September 2026 Scholarship Redemption and Customer Service Reports for June, 2026, July, 2026, and August 2026. GDOT's Daily Fatality Report	*Josh Turner*	Page 18
7	Consider Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Report	*Josh Turner*	Page 25
8	Other New Business	*Allen Poole*	
9	Adjournment	*Allen Poole*	

MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION

June 9, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
Governor's Office of Highway Safety
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive SE
Suite 370, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Call to Order

Chairman Allen Poole called the regularly scheduled, third quarter meeting of the Georgia Driver's Education Commission to order on June 9, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. and warmly welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Poole requested Mr. Josh Turner call the roll of members to confirm the presence of a quorum. A quorum was established.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members in Attendance	Board Members Not in Attendance
Mr. Allen Poole, Chairman	Ms. Kathy Watts
Ms. Angelique B. McClendon, Vice Chair	
Dr. Andrea F. Daniel (virtually)	
Mr. J. Barry Schrenk	

Non-Members in Attendance were as follows:

Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Mr. Marcus Holyfield, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Ms. Pamela Farr, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Mr. Elliot Dordick, Office of the Attorney General
Mr. Robert Hydrick, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. Lisa Owens, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. Laura Bohlander, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Poole presented the agenda. Mr. J. Barry Schrenk made a motion to adopt the agenda. Chairman Poole seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of March 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Poole presented the March 25, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. J. Barry Schrenk made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Dr. Andrea F. Daniel seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

During the public comment section, Chairman Poole opened the floor for introductions. Those present introduced themselves. There were no other public comments.

Chairman Poole opened the floor for public comment. There was no response.

Staff Report

Chairman Poole called on Mr. Turner to present the staff report. Mr. Turner presented the Scholarship Reports for the months of April, May, and June 2026, and the Scholarship Redemption and Customer Service Reports for March, April and May 2026.

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program
Monthly Scholarship Report

Month: April 2026	Monthly Allocation: 706	
	Applied	Approved
Tier 1 New Applicants:	12	12
Tier 2 New Applicants:	694	694
New Applicants Automaticaly Denied Due to Exceeding Household Income Limits & Not Enrolled in School	229	277
Total New Applicants This Month:	**935**	**706**

Reconsideration Statistics	Applied	Approved	Denied	$ Needed to Award Denied
Tier 1 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 1 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -

New Applicants this Month Eligibile for First Reconsideration Next Month:	0
Applicants Eligible for Final Reconsideration Next Month:	0

Congressional District	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month
1	0	0	1	0	0	25
2	0	0	3	0	0	58
3	0	0	1	0	0	41
4	0	0	0	0	0	29
5	0	0	0	0	0	26
6	0	0	1	0	0	78
7	0	0	0	0	0	14
8	0	0	1	0	0	29
9	0	0	3	0	0	75
10	0	0	0	0	0	57
11	0	0	0	0	0	55
12	0	0	1	0	0	39
13	0	0	1	0	0	101
14	0	0	0	0	0	67
Total	**0**	**0**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**694**
Value of Awards	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 7,800.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 451,100.00**

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program
Monthly Scholarship Report

Month: May 2026	Monthly Allocation: 614	
	Applied	Approved
Tier 1 New Applicants:	6	6
Tier 2 New Applicants:	608	608
New Applicants Automaticaly Denied Due to Exceeding Household Income Limits & Not Enrolled in School	194	0
Total New Applicants This Month:	**808**	**614**

Reconsideration Statistics	Applied	Approved	Denied	$ Needed to Award Denied
Tier 1 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 1 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -

New Applicants this Month Eligibile for First Reconsideration Next Month:	0
Applicants Eligible for Final Reconsideration Next Month:	0

Congressional District	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month
1	0	0	2	0	0	26
2	0	0	3	0	0	70
3	0	0	1	0	0	43
4	0	0	0	0	0	27
5	0	0	0	0	0	29
6	0	0	3	0	0	108
7	0	0	2	0	0	32
8	0	0	0	0	0	48
9	0	0	1	0	0	78
10	0	0	1	0	0	54
11	0	0	2	0	0	76
12	0	0	1	0	0	49
13	0	0	0	0	0	93
14	0	0	0	0	0	74
Total	**0**	**0**	**16**	**0**	**0**	**807**
Value of Awards	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 10,400.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 524,550.00**

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program
Monthly Scholarship Report

Month: June 2026	Monthly Allocation: 823	
	Applied	Approved
Tier 1 New Applicants:	16	16
Tier 2 New Applicants:	807	807
New Applicants Automaticaly Denied Due to Exceeding Household Income Limits & Not Enrolled in School	265	0
Total New Applicants This Month:	**1088**	**823**

Reconsideration Statistics	Applied	Approved	Denied	$ Needed to Award Denied
Tier 1 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 1 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -

New Applicants this Month Eligibile for First Reconsideration Next Month:	0
Applicants Eligible for Final Reconsideration Next Month:	0

Congressional District	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month
1	0	0	2	0	0	26
2	0	0	3	0	0	70
3	0	0	1	0	0	43
4	0	0	0	0	0	27
5	0	0	0	0	0	29
6	0	0	3	0	0	108
7	0	0	2	0	0	32
8	0	0	0	0	0	48
9	0	0	1	0	0	78
10	0	0	1	0	0	54
11	0	0	2	0	0	76
12	0	0	1	0	0	49
13	0	0	0	0	0	93
14	0	0	0	0	0	74
Total	**0**	**0**	**16**	**0**	**0**	**807**
Value of Awards	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 10,400.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 524,550.00**

Provider Scholarship Redemption Report for March 2026				
Provider Name	**Scolarships Redeemed**		**Provider Name**	**Scholarships Redeemed**
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	165		Albany Technical College	6
West Metro Driving School	58		Southern Crescent Technical College	6
West Metro Driving School	58		Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	6
Pinnacle Pointe DUI & Driving Schools	51		Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	6
New London School of Driving, Inc	39		DriveSmartGeorgia.com	5
1 Act Driving School	31		West Georgia Technical College	5
Advance Driving Academy	24		Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	4
Gwinnett County Board Of Education	24		Ogeechee Technical College	4
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	21		South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	4
Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education	20		Georgia Driving School, Inc.	3
Savannah Technical College	16		Gordon County Board of Education	3
Central Georgia Technical College	14		Southeastern Technical College	3
Augusta Technical College	13		Coastal Pines Technical College	2
Canton DUI & Defensive Driving	13		Duluth DUI and Driving School	2
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	13		FB Driving, Inc.	2
North Georgia Technical College	13		Georgia Piedmont Technical College	2
A Driving Advantage 2	12		Lanier Technical College	2
Taggart's Driving School	11		Oconee Fall line Technical College	2
The Wiser Driver	11		Safe Teen Driving Academy Inc	2
Southern Regional Technical College	10		Athens Technical College	1
Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	8		Columbus Technical College	1
AA Academy of Action Driving School	7		Safe America Foundtion, Inc.	1
Dickerson Driving School	7		**Total**	**711**

Customer Service Report for March 2026

GDEC Provider Email Contacts	80		Individual Staff Email Contacts	2,137
GDEC Student/Parent Email Contacts	217		Invoices Processed: 153 totaling $221,338.42 accounting for 374 students	

Provider Scholarship Redemption Report for April 2026				
Provider Name	**Scolarships Redeemed**		**Provider Name**	**Scholarships Redeemed**
Pinnacle Pointe DUI & Driving Schools	47		Lanier Technical College	4
1 Act Driving School	38		Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education	18
A Driving Advantage 2	14		Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	4
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	144		New London School of Driving, Inc	25
AA Academy of Action Driving School	4		North Georgia Technical College	8
Advance Driving Academy	27		Oconee County Board of Education	4
Albany Technical College	13		Oconee Fall line Technical College	3
Athens Technical College	4		Ogeechee Technical College	6
Augusta Technical College	17		Safe America Foundtion, Inc.	1
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	40		Safe Teen Driving Academy Inc	7
Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	5		Savannah Technical College	16
Canton DUI & Defensive Driving	7		South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	14
Central Georgia Technical College	12		Southeastern Technical College	2
Coastal Pines Technical College	9		Southern Crescent Technical College	5
Columbus Technical College	1		Southern Defensive Driving School	1
Dickerson Driving School	7		Southern Regional Technical College	10
DriveSmartGeorgia.com	5		Taggart's Driving School	12
Duluth DUI and Driving School	5		The Wiser Driver	12
FB Driving, Inc.	2		West Georgia Technical College	7
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	8		West Metro Driving School	40
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	19		White County Driver Education Program	3
Georgia Piedmont Technical College	2		Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	3
Gwinnett County Board Of Education	17		**Total**	**652**

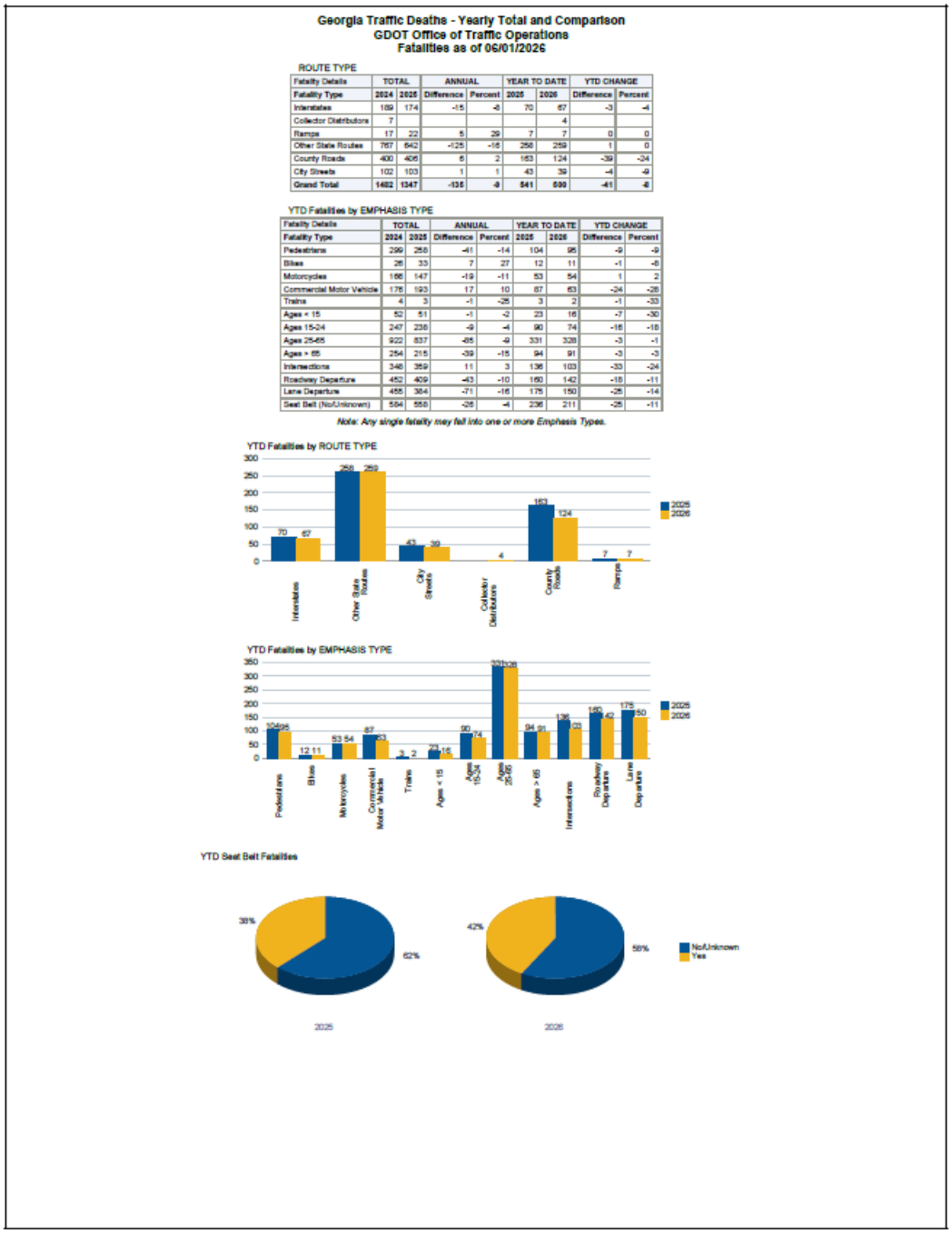
Customer Service Report for April 2026				
GDEC Provider Email Contacts	69		Individual Staff Email Contacts	1,905
GDEC Student/Parent Email Contacts	134		Invoices Processed: 149 totaling $285,635.77 accounting for 580 students	

Provider Scholarship Redemption Report for May 2026				
Provider Name	**Scolarships Redeemed**		**Provider Name**	**Scholarships Redeemed**
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	142		Central Georgia Technical College	6
West Metro Driving School	57		Dickerson Driving School	6
Pinnacle Pointe DUI & Driving Schools	47		Ogeechee Technical College	5
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	33		Southern Regional Technical College	5
1 Act Driving School	25		Lanier Technical College	4
New London School of Driving, Inc	23		Southern Defensive Driving School	4
Advance Driving Academy	15		Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	3
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	15		Coastal Pines Technical College	3
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	15		DriveSmartGeorgia.com	3
North Georgia Technical College	15		Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	3
Augusta Technical College	12		Southeastern Technical College	3
Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education	12		West Georgia Technical College	3
A Driving Advantage 2	11		Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	3
Albany Technical College	11		Columbus Technical College	2
South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	11		Oconee Fall line Technical College	2
The Wiser Driver	10		Safe America Foundtion, Inc.	2
Gwinnett County Board Of Education	9		Southern Crescent Technical College	2
Safe Teen Driving Academy Inc	8		Athens Technical College	1
Savannah Technical College	8		Calhoun City Schools	1
Taggart's Driving School	8		Duluth DUI and Driving School	1
AA Academy of Action Driving School	7		FB Driving, Inc.	1
Canton DUI & Defensive Driving	6		White County Driver Education Program	1
			Total	**564**

Customer Service Report for May 2026

GDEC Provider Email Contacts	38		Individual Staff Email Contacts	1,538
GDEC Student/Parent Email Contacts	138		Invoices Processed: 136 totaling $236,240.96 accounting for 474 students	

Next, Mr. Turner highlighted the Georgia Department of Transportation's Daily Fatality Report which showed 500 fatalities on Georgia roadways through June 1, 2026. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.



Georgia Traffic Deaths - Yearly Total and Comparison
GDOT Office of Traffic Operations
Fatalities as of 06/01/2026

ROUTE TYPE

Fatality Details	TOTAL		ANNUAL		YEAR TO DATE		YTD CHANGE	
Fatality Type	2024	2025	Difference	Percent	2025	2026	Difference	Percent
Interstates	189	174	-15	-8	70	67	-3	-4
Collector Distributors	7					4		
Ramps	17	22	5	29	7	7	0	0
Other State Routes	767	642	-125	-16	258	259	1	0
County Roads	400	406	6	2	163	124	-39	-24
City Streets	102	103	1	1	43	39	-4	-9
Grand Total	1482	1347	-135	-9	541	500	-41	-8

YTD Fatalities by EMPHASIS TYPE

Fatality Details	TOTAL		ANNUAL		YEAR TO DATE		YTD CHANGE	
Fatality Type	2024	2025	Difference	Percent	2025	2026	Difference	Percent
Pedestrians	299	258	-41	-14	104	95	-9	-9
Bikes	26	33	7	27	12	11	-1	-8
Motorcycles	166	147	-19	-11	53	54	1	2
Commercial Motor Vehicle	175	193	17	10	87	63	-24	-28
Trains	4	3	-1	-25	3	2	-1	-33
Ages < 15	52	51	-1	-2	23	16	-7	-30
Ages 15-24	247	238	-9	-4	90	74	-16	-18
Ages 25-65	922	837	-85	-9	331	328	-3	-1
Ages > 65	254	215	-39	-15	94	91	-3	-3
Intersections	346	359	11	3	136	103	-33	-24
Roadway Departure	452	409	-43	-10	160	142	-18	-11
Lane Departure	455	384	-71	-16	175	150	-25	-14
Seat Belt (No/Unknown)	584	558	-26	-4	236	211	-25	-11

Note: Any single fatality may fall into one or more Emphasis Types.

YTD Fatalities by ROUTE TYPE

YTD Fatalities by EMPHASIS TYPE

YTD Seat Belt Fatalities

Mr. Turner announced that on June 18, 2026, the Commission will host its first Authorized Provider Summit at Central Georgia Technical College between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and lunch will be provided. To date, 30 attendees have registered. The Commission will provide an update on the

budget and forecast scholarship awards in the next fiscal year, remind attendees of policies and procedures, share updates made to the software and provide an opportunity for attendees to provide feedback to software developers. Additionally, Justice Verda Colvin of the Georgia Supreme Court will provide a "motivational minute" and nationally recognized driver's education instructor Derek Stewart from Florida will give tips and tricks to engage students in the classroom.

Mr. Turner then shared that in accordance with Paragraph A-4 of the Grant Scholarship Criteria, the household income levels have been updated, effective July 1, 2026, to match the updated eligibility for the free and reduced price meals by the Georgia Department of Education.

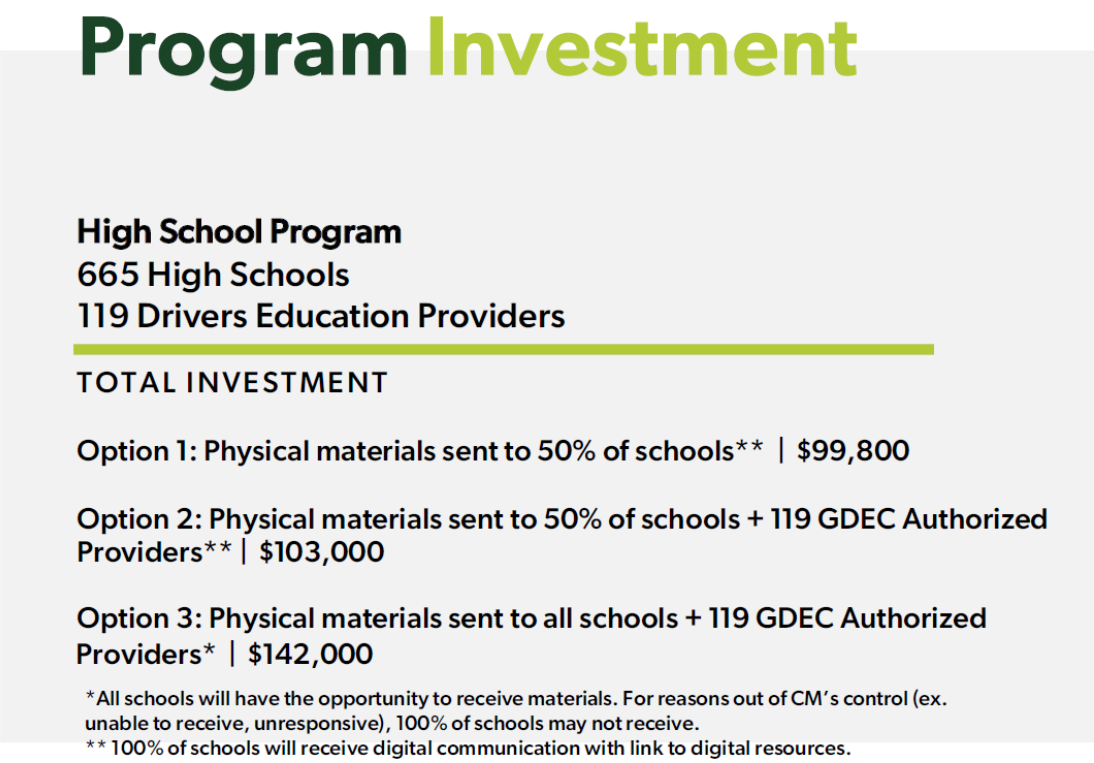
Finally, Mr. Turner announced that Department of Driver Services Commissioner Angelique McClendon has appointed Department of Driver Services Assistant Deputy Commissioner Kecia Bivins to the Commission, replacing Dr. Malika Wilkins who resigned her position due to a career change.

Vice Chair McClendon made a motion to adopt the staff report. Chairman Poole seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Marketing Plan

Mr. Turner reminded Commission members of the presentation from Campus Multimedia at the March meeting that highlighted a marketing campaign to target eligible Georgians and inform them of the Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program. Campus Multimedia has provided three proposal options as outlined below.



Additionally, Mr. Turner stated that he has been working with the Georgia Association of Broadcasters (GAB) to obtain a proposal for their Public Education Program (PEP). The GAB represents the interests of broadcasters in Georgia, offering legislative advocacy, regulatory guidance, and compliance support. Broadcasters become members by airing public education, 30-second, educational advertisements offering a unique alternative to normal public service announcements and traditional advertising. The program provides an efficient and affordable approach for statewide messaging. The PEP provides a coordinated statewide initiative to reach a mass audience more cost-effectively than through traditional advertising, guarantees a 4 to 1 ratio of airtime versus cost investment, and GAB manages the advertising spot distribution, monitors airtime, provides detailed reports showing when and where messages are aired, and produces the advertisements at no additional cost. Additionally, the PEP offers media and in-station interviews for content on station talk shows. The cost to the Commission would be $8,000 per month for television advertising and $8,000 per month for radio advertising.

Additionally, Mr. Turner is proposing that GDEC go live with Social Media on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram in coordination with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety's communication department at no cost to the Commission.

Mr. Turner reminded Commission members that the Performance Audit conducted by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) recommended advertising the program. As the GDEC's budget has increased due to increased collections of the Driver Education and Training Fund at the three percent surcharge rate, he feels this is right time to implement the recommendation.

Finally, Mr. Turner provided a recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2027 Marketing Plan as detailed below:

- Campus Multimedia Option 3: Physical materials sent to all schools and 119 GDEC Authorized Providers = $142,000
- Georgia Association of Broadcasters Public Education Program
    - :30 Radio ads for 12 months at $8,000 per month = $96,000
    - :30 Television ads for 12 months at $8,000 per month = $96,000
    - Radio and Television total for 12 months = $192,000
- GDEC Social Media: Facebook + Instagram + YouTube (without promoted posts or advertising boosts) = $0
- Total Fiscal Year 2027 Advertising Costs = $334,000 (6% of Proposed Budget)

Chairman Poole stated that he realized the benefit of choosing Campus Multimedia's option three with 100 percent more outreach with 50 percent additional cost. He then asked what percentage of the budget had previously been spent on marketing. Mr. Turner stated fiscal year 2026 would be the first year the Commission would spend dollars on marketing and had never previously had a marketing budget.

Vice Chair McClendon stated that she appreciates the perspective of the DOAA auditors who recommended that the scholarship program be advertised and felt it was important to send materials to

all schools as provided in Campus Multimedia's option three. Additionally, she stated that she sees the benefit of advertising with radio and television through GAB and social media.

Chairman Poole asked if the GAB PEP would also advertise with minority and neighborhood radio stations. Mr. Turner deferred to Mr. Robert Hydrick, Communications Manager with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Mr. Hydrick provided an overview of his experience working with the program. Mr. Turner then stated that while he can't guarantee all radio stations participate in the PEP program, GAB does state that the "majority of radio stations" and all major television networks in all six media markets in the state participate.

Vice Chair McClendon stated the Department of Driver Services has also advertised with the GAB PEP and has found them to be beneficial.

Dr. Daniel stated the proposal has her full support and that as an educator, she feels that all educational programs are about access and students can't have access without knowledge of the program and that the proposal will help to accomplish that. She also felt that it was important that the Commission review the reports from GAB and analytics reports from social media to ensure that the plan is successful.

Chairman Poole stated his support for the plan, as well.

Mr. Schrenk stated that he feels this will be a great program to get the word out about the scholarship program and especially supports engaging with 100% of schools in Campus Multimedia's option three.

Dr. Daniel stated that, in her experience as a former Vice President of Marketing, six percent of the operational budget is in line with respectable marketing guidelines.

Chairman Poole made a motion to adopt Mr. Turner's recommended Fiscal Year 2027 Marketing Plan stated above utilizing Campus Multimedia's option three for $142,000, GAB PEP television advertising for $8,000 per month and radio advertising for $8,000 per month, and implementing GDEC social media pages on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram platforms. Mr. Schrenk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Amendment to Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Mr. Turner presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget amendment proposal. Mr. Turner stated that the General Assembly increased the budget by $1,710 as a line-item increase to personal services that was applied statewide for all employees for employee-related expenses. Additionally, Mr. Turner is proposing an increase to Computer Charges for $1,000, a decrease in GOHS shared expenses of $16,497, a decrease in Consulting Services of $8,900, an increase in Scholarship Funds of $69,437, a decrease in board member per diem of $2,000, a decrease of Personal Services of $40,730, an increase in Meeting Expenses of $3,000, a decrease in Office Supplies of $1,400, a decrease in printing of $5,000, an increase in Software License of $3,000, a decrease in Subscriptions of $200, a decrease in contingency of $10,000, and an increase in Travel of $10,000.

Dr. Daniel made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget as presented. Mr. Schrenk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Adoption of Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Mr. Turner presented the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Mr. Turner stated that the General Assembly appropriation increased by $2,009,929. Mr. Turner explained that in previous years, the Office of Planning and Budget would estimate the Driver Education and Training Fund collections for the fiscal year and account for actual collections in the State's amended budget, which presented budgeting challenges in the final quarter of the fiscal year. The Office of Planning and Budget proposed withholding an increase in the Fiscal Year 2026 amended budget to reflect the actual Driver Education and Training Fund collections and instead appropriate the full amount of collections from Fiscal Year 2025 in Fiscal Year 2027.

Mr. Turner highlighted the budget noting an increase of $1,533,229 to scholarships, a new line item for advertising in the amount of $334,000 for the marketing plan previously adopted in the meeting, and an increase in Consulting Services for a program evaluation in the amount $60,000. The total budget for the year is $5,463,949.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment and Fiscal Year 2027 Budget is included below.

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment and Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Proposal

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Line	Budget Category	Cost Category	Fiscal Year 2026 Budget	Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #1	Difference	Percent Increase / Decrease from Original Fiscal Year 2026 Budget	Line Item Percentage of Budget	Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Proposal	Difference between FY 2026 Proposal and FY 2025 Budget Amendment #1	Percent Increase / Decrease from Amended Fiscal Year 2026 Budget	Line Item Percentage of Budget
1	Computer Charges/Supplies	Computer Charges	$ 1,000	$ 2,000	$ 1,000	50.00%	0.06%	$ 1,000	$ (1,000)	-100.00%	0.02%
2	GOHS Shared Expenses	Contractual Services	$ 83,097	$ 83,097	$ -	0.00%	2.41%	$ 95,000	$ 11,903	12.53%	1.74%
3	Software Support (Scholarship Program IT	Contractual Services	$ 165,000	$ 165,000	$ -	0.00%	4.78%	$ 165,000	$ -	0.00%	3.02%
4	Consulting Services	Contractual Services	$ 40,000	$ 31,100	$ (8,900)	-28.62%	0.90%	$ 40,000	$ 8,900	22.25%	0.73%
5	Scholarships	Contractual Services	$ 2,569,183	$ 2,622,123	$ 52,940	2.02%	75.92%	$ 4,156,849	$ 1,534,726	36.92%	76.08%
6	Program Evaluation	Contractual Services	$ -	$ -	$ -		0.00%	$ 60,000	$ 60,000	100.00%	1.10%
7	Program Advertising	Contractual Services	$ -	$ -	$ -		0.00%	$ 334,000	$ 334,000	100.00%	6.11%
8	Board Member Expenses	Per Diem	$ 2,000	$ -	$ (2,000)		0.00%	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	100.00%	0.04%
9	Personnel Services	Personnel Services	$ 468,030	$ 427,300	$ (40,730)	-9.53%	12.37%	$ 468,000	$ 40,700	8.70%	8.57%
10	Meeting Expenses	Regular Operating	$ 500	$ 3,500	$ 3,000	85.71%	0.10%	$ 3,500	$ -	0.00%	0.06%
11	Office Supplies	Regular Operating	$ 3,000	$ 1,600	$ (1,400)	-87.50%	0.05%	$ 3,000	$ 1,400	46.67%	0.05%
12	Printing	Regular Operating	$ 5,000	$ -	$ (5,000)		0.00%	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	100.00%	0.09%
13	Software License	Regular Operating	$ 85,000	$ 88,000	$ 3,000	3.41%	2.55%	$ 90,100	$ 2,100	2.33%	1.65%
14	Subscriptions, Memberships and Certifications	Regular Operating	$ 500	$ 300	$ (200)	-66.67%	0.01%	$ 500	$ 200	40.00%	0.01%
15	Staff & Board Member Travel	Travel	$ 20,000	$ 30,000	$ 10,000	33.33%	0.87%	$ 30,000	$ -	0.00%	0.55%
16	Contingency		$ 10,000	$ -	$ (10,000)		0.00%	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	100.00%	0.18%
17	**Total**		**$ 3,452,310**	$ 3,454,020	$ 1,710	0.05%		$ 5,463,949	$ 2,009,929	36.79%	100.00%

Chairman Poole opened the floor for questions.

Dr. Daniel stated that she felt the six percent of the budget allocated for advertising aligns very nicely with the program budget and the additional $2,009,929 appropriated.

Chairman Poole questioned the $3,500 for meeting expenses and Mr. Turner stated that the funds would be used for an Authorized Provider Summit in 2027 if the Summit planned for later in the month was a success.

Commissioner McClendon commented that the increase in $2,009,929 in funding was great and asked if there was a specific reason that the funds collected had increased. Mr. Turner explained that the original surcharge on traffic citations was established at 5% and then decreased to 1.5% in 2015. In June of 2022, the surcharge expired by legislative sunset and then was reestablished in July of 2023 at 3%. The increase in the Driver Education and Training Fund is reflective of the surcharge increase.

Vice Chair McClendon made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget, as presented. Mr. Schrenk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Amendments to the Georgia Driver's Education Commission Grant Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements

Mr. Turner proposed changing the Georgia Driver's Education Commission Grant Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements to allow children or dependents of United States military personnel who are disabled in the line of duty to receive Tier 1 status, aligning with the existing designation that provides Tier 1 status to children or dependents of Georgia public safety professionals who are disabled in the line of duty. Further, Mr. Turner is proposing to institute a requirement that 10% of applicants in Tier 2 status be audited at the time of application and be required to provide documentation of family income. The proposal would amend paragraph A3 and paragraph A4 as detailed below.

Mr. Schrenk made a motion to amend the Georgia Driver's Education Commission Grant Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements as presented, effective July 1, 2026. Dr. Daniel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First priority will be given to grant scholarship applicants who are a child or dependent of a Georgia first responder disabled or killed in the line of duty or member of the United States military killed in action or honorably discharged with a disability rating of 30% or higher and to applicants who are in state custody under the care of the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. If the applicant is a child or dependent of a Georgia first responder disabled or killed in the line of duty, the applicant's parent or legal guardian must complete an affidavit swearing that the deceased parent was disabled or killed in the line duty and provide the circumstances of the injury/death. ~~identify said professional and provide a copy of the student applicant's birth certificate or other government issued documentation proving the student was a dependent of the identified Georgia first responder.~~ For purposes of this grant scholarship program, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission will rely on the Georgia Public Safety Memorial Committee to identify a Georgia first responder killed in the line of duty. For purposes of this grant scholarship program, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission will rely on O.C.G.A § 35-8-7.4 (a) to identify and define a Georgia first responder. ~~If the applicant is a child or dependent of a Georgia first responder disabled in the line of duty, the applicant must provide of letter of disability.~~ If the applicant is a child or dependent of United States military personnel killed in action, the applicant must complete an affidavit swearing that the minor is the child of a military professional killed in the line of duty and must provide DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty) as documentation. If the applicant is a child or dependent of United States military personnel honorably discharged with a disability rating of 30% or higher, the applicant must complete an affidavit swearing that the minor is the child of a military professional honorably discharged with a rating of 30% or higher and provide the appropriate Benefit Summary Letter, VA Decision Letter, or DD Form 214 along with formal retirement orders stating the disability retirement status. If the applicant is under the care of the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, the applicant must submit an affidavit from an authorized employee of the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services that the child is in ~~a letter documenting custody from~~ the legal custody of the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. Grant scholarship allocations in this priority level will be evenly distributed among Georgia's United States congressional districts.
4. Second priority will be given to scholarship applicants who can demonstrate a need based on family income. Financial need eligibility will be based on 175% of the Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility program for the State of Georgia as published by the Georgia Department of Education. The Commission authorizes agency staff to make necessary technical adjustments to the Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program application and award process to ensure that the eligibility level is appropriately adjusted as the financial need eligibility for the Free and Reduced Price Meal program is increased or decreased by the Georgia Department of Education. Grant scholarship allocations in this priority level will be evenly distributed among Georgia's United States congressional districts. Ten percent of applicants will be chosen at random to provide documentation of family income and required to provide the first page of applicant's parent or guardian's Internal Revenue Service Form 1040.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2027 Meeting Schedule
Mr. Turner presented the Fiscal Year 2027 Meeting Schedule below.

Fiscal Year 2027 Meeting Schedule

- First Quarter GDEC Meeting
  - September 22, 2026; 1:30 p.m.
- Second Quarter GDEC Meeting p.m.
  - December 8, 2026; 1:30 p.m.
- Third Quarter GDEC Meeting
  - March 16, 2027; 1:30 p.m.
- Fourth Quarter GDEC Meeting
  - June 15, 2027; 1:30 p.m.

Meetings held at the Governor's Office of Highway Safety unless advertised otherwise

Governor's Office of Highway Safety
2 Martin Luther King Jr Drive, SE
East Tower, Suite 370
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Vice Chair McClendon made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Meeting Schedule as proposed. Mr. Schrenk seconded the motion.

Other New Business
Dr. Daniel thanked Mr. Turner for attending and presenting at the Technical College System of Georgia Conference to address the Vice Presidents of Economic Development on the scholarship program.

Chairman Poole thanked Dr. Daniel for hosting the March GDEC meeting at Athens Technical College and providing lunch.

Executive Session to discuss Personnel
Chairman Poole made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Mr. Schrenk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission Entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel at 2:40 p.m.

Mr. Schrenk made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to General Session. Mr. Poole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission returned to General Session at 2:53 p.m.

Adjournment

Chairman Poole announced that the Governor's Office of Highway Safety would be engaging with fans at the FIFA World Cup matches in Atlanta to encourage traffic safety.

Chairman Poole made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schrenk seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Turner, Director
Georgia Driver's Education Commission

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program
Monthly Scholarship Report

Month: July 2026	Monthly Allocation: 740	
	Applied	Approved
Tier 1 New Applicants:	10	10
Tier 2 New Applicants:	730	730
New Applicants Automatically Denied Due to Exceeding Household Income	205	0
New Applicants Automatically Denied Due to Not Being Enrolled in School	3	0
Total New Applicants This Month:	**948**	**740**

Reconsideration Statistics	Applied	Approved	Denied	$ Needed to Award Denied
Tier 1 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 1 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -

New Applicants this Month Eligibile for First Reconsideration Next Month:	0
Applicants Eligible for Final Reconsideration Next Month:	0

Congressional District	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month
1	0	0	0	0	0	23
2	0	0	2	0	0	69
3	0	0	1	0	0	59
4	0	0	1	0	0	27
5	0	0	0	0	0	27
6	0	0	0	0	0	83
7	0	0	1	0	0	36
8	0	0	1	0	0	34
9	0	0	0	0	0	75
10	0	0	0	0	0	44
11	0	0	1	0	0	51
12	0	0	0	0	0	47
13	0	0	1	0	0	96
14	0	0	2	0	0	59
Total	**0**	**0**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**730**
Value of Awards	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 6,500.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 474,500.00**

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program
Monthly Scholarship Report

Month: August 2026	Monthly Allocation: 680	
	Applied	Approved
Tier 1 New Applicants:	15	15
Tier 2 New Applicants:	665	665
New Applicants Automatically Denied Due to Exceeding Household Income	183	0
New Applicants Automatically Denied Due to Not Being Enrolled in School	3	0
Total New Applicants This Month:	**866**	**680**

Reconsideration Statistics	Applied	Approved	Denied	$ Needed to Award Denied
Tier 1 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 1 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -

New Applicants this Month Eligibile for First Reconsideration Next Month:	0
Applicants Eligible for Final Reconsideration Next Month:	0

Congressional District	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month
1	0	0	1	0	0	14
2	0	0	0	0	0	52
3	0	0	0	0	0	46
4	0	0	0	0	0	28
5	0	0	1	0	0	27
6	0	0	3	0	0	91
7	0	0	0	0	0	21
8	0	0	1	0	0	23
9	0	0	2	0	0	59
10	0	0	0	0	0	53
11	0	0	1	0	0	51
12	0	0	0	0	0	48
13	0	0	2	0	0	87
14	0	0	4	0	0	65
Total	**0**	**0**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**665**
Value of Awards	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 9,750.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 432,250.00**

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program
Monthly Scholarship Report

Month: September 2026	Monthly Allocation: 650	
	Applied	Approved
Tier 1 New Applicants:	10	10
Tier 2 New Applicants:	729	640
New Applicants Automatically Denied Due to Exceeding Household Income	174	0
New Applicants Automatically Denied Due to Not Being Enrolled in School	2	0
Total New Applicants This Month:	**915**	**650**

Reconsideration Statistics	Applied	Approved	Denied	$ Needed to Award Denied
Tier 1 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 1 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting First Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -
Tier 2 Awaiting Final Reconsideration:	0	0	0	$ -

New Applicants this Month Eligibile for First Reconsideration Next Month:	89
Applicants Eligible for Final Reconsideration Next Month:	0

Congressional District	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month	Denied Twice; Awaiting Final Consideration	Denied Once; Awaiting Second Consideration	Applied this Month & Approved This Month
1	0	0	0	0	0	18
2	0	0	0	0	0	54
3	0	0	3	0	0	48
4	0	0	0	0	0	48
5	0	0	0	0	0	25
6	0	0	2	0	0	66
7	0	0	0	0	0	19
8	0	0	0	0	0	21
9	0	0	1	0	0	65
10	0	0	0	0	0	56
11	0	0	2	0	0	50
12	0	0	1	0	0	42
13	0	0	1	0	0	65
14	0	0	0	0	0	63
Total	**0**	**0**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**640**
Value of Awards	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 6,500.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 416,000.00**

Provider Scholarship Redemption Report for June 2026				
Provider Name	**Scolarships Redeemed**		**Provider Name**	**Scholarships Redeemed**
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	154		DriveSmart Systems, Inc.	9
West Metro Driving School	63		Ogeechee Technical College	9
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	44		The Wiser Driver	9
New London School of Driving Inc.	37		West Georgia Technical College	9
1 ACT Driving Schools, LLC	36		Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	8
Pinnacle Pointe DUI & Driving Schools	31		Southern Crescent Technical College	8
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	25		AA Academy of Action Driving School	7
1st Stop Georgia Driving Academy	23		Southern Regional Technical College	7
North Georgia Technical College	21		Lanier Technical College	6
Advance Driving Academy	18		Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	6
Augusta Technical College	18		Collins Driving School	5
Taggart's Driving School	17		Savannah Technical College	5
South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	15		FB Driving, Inc.	4
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	14		Gwinnett County Board Of Education	4
Marietta City Board of Education	13		Southern Defensive Driving School	4
A Driving Advantage	13		Driving Under Intelligence DUI & Defensive Driving School LLC	3
Gordon County Board of Education	12		Duluth DUI and Driving School	3
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	11		Southeastern Regional Driving and Safety Academy Inc	3
Kennesaw Driving School	11		Columbus Technical College	2
Albany Technical College	10		Oconee County Board of Education	2
Coastal Pines Technical College	10		Oconee Fall Line Technical College	2
Dickerson Driving School, Inc.	10		South Georgia Technical College	2
Central Georgia Technical College	9		Southeastern Technical College	1
			Total	733

Customer Service Report for June 2026

GDEC Provider Email Contacts	47		Individual Staff Email Contacts	2,010
GDEC Student/Parent Email Contacts	218		Invoices Processed: 155 totaling $324,268.82 accounting for 635 students	

Provider Scholarship Redemption Report for July 2026				
Provider Name	**Scolarships Redeemed**		**Provider Name**	**Scholarships Redeemed**
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	154		The Wiser Driver	7
West Metro Driving School	60		South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	7
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	41		A Driving Advantage	7
Pinnacle Pointe DUI & Driving Schools	36		DriveSmart Georgia	6
New London School of Driving Inc.	29		Gordon County Board of Education	6
1 ACT Driving Schools, LLC	22		Gwinnett County Board Of Education	6
Advance Driving Academy	20		Southern Crescent Technical College	6
Augusta Technical College	20		Coastal Pines Technical College	5
Savannah Technical College	19		West Georgia Technical College	5
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	17		Columbus Technical College	4
1st Stop Georgia Driving Academy	16		Dickerson Driving School, Inc.	4
Albany Technical College	15		FB Driving, Inc.	4
North Georgia Technical College	13		South Georgia Technical College	4
AA Academy of Action Driving School	12		Driving Under Intelligence DUI & Defensive Driving School LLC	3
Central Georgia Technical College	12		Duluth DUI and Driving School	3
Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	11		Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	3
Collins Driving School	11		Athens Technical College	2
Taggart's Driving School	10		Georgia Piedmont Technical College	2
Southeastern Regional Driving and Safety Academy Inc	10		Soouthern Defensive Driving School	2
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	9		Lanier Technical College	2
Marietta City Board of Education	9		Oconee Fall Line Technical College	2
Ogeechee Technical College	9		Safe America Foundation, Inc.	2
Kennesaw Driving School	9		Southeastern Technical College	2
Southern Regional Technical College	9		Oconee County Board of Education	1
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	8		White County Board of Education	1
			Total	677

Customer Service Report for July 2026

GDEC Provider Email Contacts	61		Individual Staff Email Contacts	1,881
GDEC Student/Parent Email Contacts	201		Invoices Processed: 193 totaling $375,729.40 accounting for 735 students	

Provider Scholarship Redemption Report for August 2026				
Provider Name	**Scolarships Redeemed**		**Provider Name**	**Scholarships Redeemed**
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	152		Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	7
West Metro Driving School	60		South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	6
Pinnacle Pointe DUI & Driving Schools	36		Dickerson Driving School	5
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	30		North Georgia Technical College	5
New London School of Driving, Inc	30		Collins Driving School	4
Advance Driving Academy	27		Oconee County Board of Education	4
1st Stop Georgia Driving Academy	26		Southern Crescent Technical College	4
Gwinnett County Board Of Education	20		AA Academy of Action Driving School	3
1 Act Driving School	18		Albany Technical College	3
Canton DUI & Defensive Driving	16		Lanier Technical College	3
Augusta Technical College	15		Ogeechee Technical College	3
Central Georgia Technical College	15		South Georgia Technical College	3
A Driving Advantage 2	13		Southern Regional Technical College	3
Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	12		Duluth DUI and Driving School	2
Savannah Technical College	10		Safe America Foundtion, Inc.	2
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	9		Southern Defensive Driving School	2
Safe Teen Driving Academy Inc	9		Athens Technical College	1
DriveSmartGeorgia.com	8		Columbus Technical College	1
Taggart's Driving School	8		FB Driving, Inc.	1
The Wiser Driver	8		Gordon County Board of Education	1
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	7		Southeastern Technical College	1
Marietta/Cobb Driver's Education	7		Total	600

Customer Service Report for August 2026

GDEC Provider Email Contacts	44		Individual Staff Email Contacts	2,480
GDEC Student/Parent Email Contacts	127		Invoices Processed: 183 totaling $303,416.80 accounting for 594 students	

Georgia Traffic Deaths - Yearly Total and Comparison
GDOT Office of Traffic Operations
Fatalities as of 09/15/2026

ROUTE TYPE

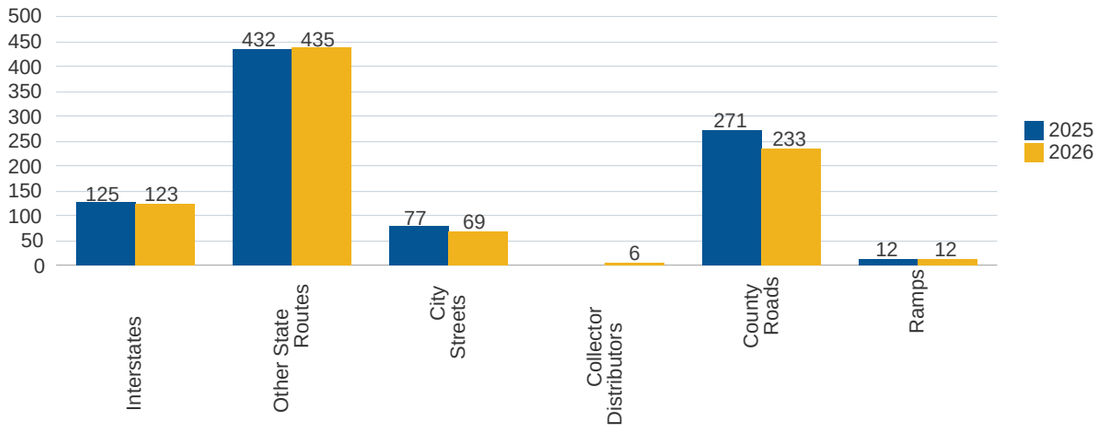
Fatality Details	TOTAL		ANNUAL		YEAR TO DATE		YTD CHANGE	
Fatality Type	**2024**	**2025**	**Difference**	**Percent**	**2025**	**2026**	**Difference**	**Percent**
Interstates	189	168	-21	-11	125	123	-2	-2
Collector Distributors	7					6		
Ramps	17	22	5	29	12	12	0	0
Other State Routes	768	640	-128	-17	432	435	3	1
County Roads	401	398	-3	-1	271	233	-38	-14
City Streets	102	104	2	2	77	69	-8	-10
Grand Total	**1484**	**1332**	**-152**	**-10**	**917**	**878**	**-39**	**-4**

YTD Fatalities by EMPHASIS TYPE

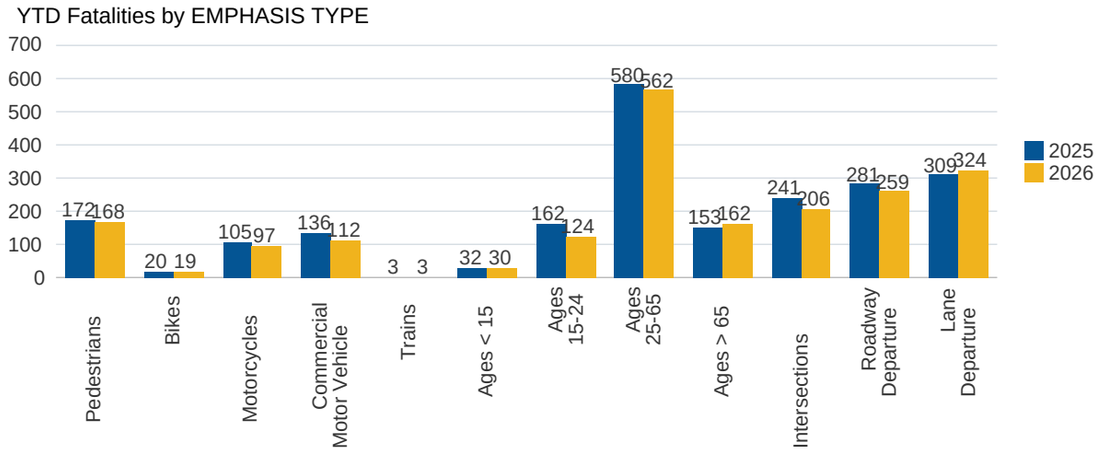
Fatality Details	TOTAL		ANNUAL		YEAR TO DATE		YTD CHANGE	
Fatality Type	**2024**	**2025**	**Difference**	**Percent**	**2025**	**2026**	**Difference**	**Percent**
Pedestrians	301	260	-41	-14	173	168	-5	-3
Bikes	26	33	7	27	21	19	-2	-10
Motorcycles	166	148	-18	-11	106	97	-9	-8
Commercial Motor Vehicle	177	193	16	9	136	112	-24	-18
Trains	4	3	-1	-25	3	3	0	0
Ages < 15	52	50	-2	-4	32	30	-2	-6
Ages 15-24	247	238	-9	-4	163	124	-39	-24
Ages 25-65	924	841	-83	-9	582	562	-20	-3
Ages > 65	255	215	-40	-16	154	162	8	5
Intersections	349	359	10	3	243	206	-37	-15
Roadway Departure	452	408	-44	-10	282	259	-23	-8
Lane Departure	455	384	-71	-16	309	324	15	5
Seat Belt (No/Unknown)	585	557	-28	-5	378	364	-14	-4

Note: Any single fatality may fall into one or more Emphasis Types.

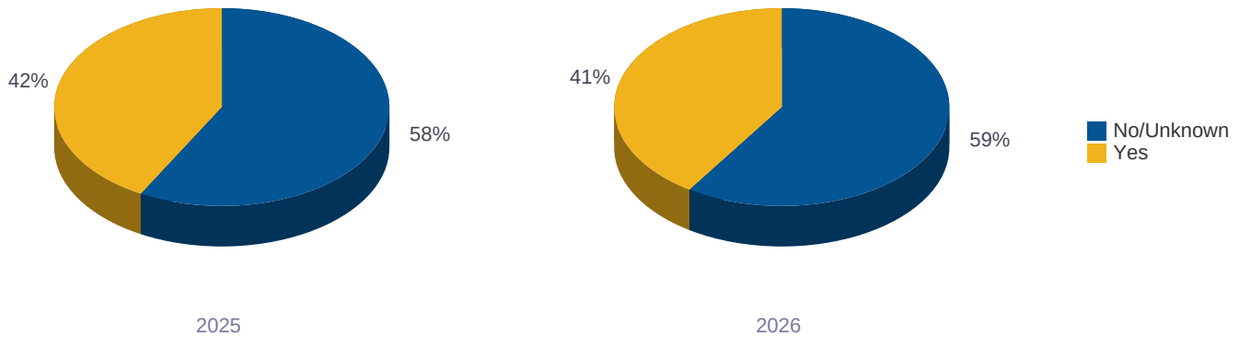
YTD Fatalities by ROUTE TYPE



YTD Fatalities by EMPHASIS TYPE



YTD Seat Belt Fatalities



2026 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION
WWW.GAHIGHWAYSAFETY.ORG/GDEC
404-656-2769

GEORGIA Driver's Education COMMISSION

Georgia Driver's Education Commission

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 regarding 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.

GEORGIA Driver's Education COMMISSION

Contents

Commission Composition 1

Problem Identification 2

Young Driver Licensing 3

Commission History 5

Fiscal Year 2026 Activities 8

Funding History 12

Commission Composition

Under O.C.G.A. §15-21-173, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission consists of eight (8) members who can serve four-year terms. The State Board of Education shall appoint one commission member, and the Department of Driver Services shall appoint two members. 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 appointed members.

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

Angelique McClendon, Vice Chair
Commissioner
Department of Driver Services
Appointed by the Department of Driver Services

Dr. Andrea Daniel, DBA
President
Athens Technical College
Represents Public Driver's Education Providers appointed by the Governor

J. Barry Schrenk
Owner
Taggart's Driving School
Represents Private Driver's Education Providers appointed by the Governor

Kathy L. Watts
Owner
New London School of Driving
Represents Private Driver's Education Providers appointed by the Governor

Kecia T. Bivins
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Appointed by the Department of Driver Services

One (1) vacancy appointed by the Governor representing a Public Driver's Education Provider

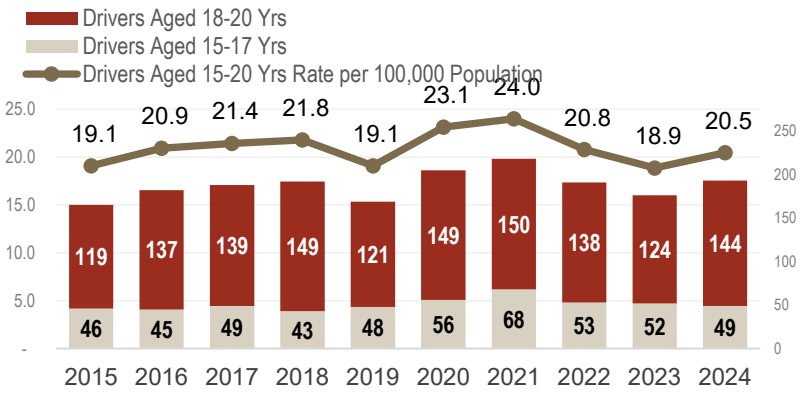
One (1) vacancy appointed by the State Board of Education

Problem Identification

According to the most recent data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 193 young drivers (15-to-20 years) were involved in fatal crashes on Georgia roadways in 2024. This is a 10% increase (17 more young drivers) since the previous year. During this same period, the rate of young drivers involved in fatal crashes per 100,000 population also increased by 9% (from 18.9 to 20.5). This does not imply that young drivers caused the crash either by their actions or failure to act.

In 2024, young drivers represented 9% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes – similar to previous years. Over the past decade, most young drivers involved in fatal crashes were in the 18-to-20 age group (Figure 1). In 2024, 75% of all young drivers involved in fatal crashes were in the 18-to-20 age group.

Figure 1. Number of Young Drivers (15-to-17 and 18-to-20 Years) Involved in Fatal Crashes



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2015-2024

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention[1], teens are at a higher risk of being in a motor vehicle crash compared to any other age group. In 2024:

- **293.3** out of every *100,000* crashes involving drivers aged 15-to-20 were fatal
- **23.5** out of every *100,000* licensed drivers aged 15-to-20 were involved in a fatal crash
- **17.4** out of every *100,000* Georgia residents aged 15-to-20 were involved in a fatal crash

In 2024, there were 68,128 crashes that involved young drivers in Georgia—87% involved other vehicles (multi-vehicle crashes), and 13% were single-vehicle crashes. The most common harmful event in single-vehicle crashes was a confirmed inattentive driver (distraction) colliding with a fixed object. In 2024, 26% of young drivers in single-vehicle crashes were speeding, and 14% lost control of their vehicle moments before crashing. The top contributing factors among young drivers and other drivers involved in multi-vehicle crashes were following too closely and failure to yield the right of way. Additionally, 10% of all young drivers involved in any traffic crash were confirmed or suspected of distracted driving. Crashes caused by these top contributing factors can often be avoided with proper training.

Fortunately, teen and young driver motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities are preventable, and proven strategies can improve young drivers' safety on the road through effective driver education. 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 education remains a paramount and effective component in the fight to reduce crash injuries and fatalities among young drivers in Georgia.

[1] "Teen Drivers: Get the Facts." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 30 Oct. 2019, www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html.

Young Driver Licensing

The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TADRA) was enacted on July 1, 1997. TADRA established a Graduated Driver's License program for young drivers ages 15-to-18 in Georgia. The law significantly changed how young motorists earn and maintain their driving privileges (Class D Provisional License).

The methods available to young drivers to obtain their license include a combination of a 30-hour course with instructors, behind-the-wheel training, supervised driving, and the use of the Parent-Teen Driving Guide. These methods are designed to gradually introduce young drivers to Georgia roadways and reduce high-risk driving situations. Young drivers can obtain their licenses using any of the four methods described below.

Method **1**	30 hours of **classroom** instruction at a DDS-approved school	+	6 hours of behind-the-wheel training at a **DDS-approved school**	+	40 hours of supervised driving with a parent or guardian	→ Joshua's Law Driver Education Requirements Met
Method **2**	30 hours of **classroom** instruction at a DDS-approved school	+	Completion of the **Parent-Teen Driving Guide** at a **DDS-approved school**			→ Joshua's Law Driver Education Requirements Met
Method **3**	DDS-approved school **online (virtual) course**	+	6 hours of behind-the-wheel training at a **DDS-approved school**	+	40 hours of supervised driving with a parent or guardian	→ Joshua's Law Driver Education Requirements Met
Method **4**	DDS-approved school **online (virtual) course**	+	Completion of the **Parent-Teen Driving Guide** (no additional supervised driving required)			→ Joshua's Law Driver Education Requirements Met

Figure 2 shows how young drivers obtained a Provisional License (Class D) across the various methods in FY2026.

- **57%** of young drivers used Method 4; this is approximately 11.4 out of every 20 young drivers
- **32%** of young drivers used Method 1; this is approximately 6.3 out of every 20 young drivers
- **8%** of young drivers used Method 3; this is approximately 1.5 out of every 20 young drivers
- **4%** of young drivers used Method 2; this is approximately 0.7 out of every 20 young drivers

According to the Georgia Driver's Education Commission's research study of Joshua's Law, young drivers who used Method 1 to complete the Graduated Driver License (GDL) requirement demonstrated better, safer outcomes than those who used other methods. Young drivers who used Method 1 had fewer crashes and fewer crashes with serious injuries or fatalities than young drivers who completed the GDL requirement using other methods.

Figure 2. FY2026 Class D Licenses Issued by GDL Method
(July 2025- June 2026)

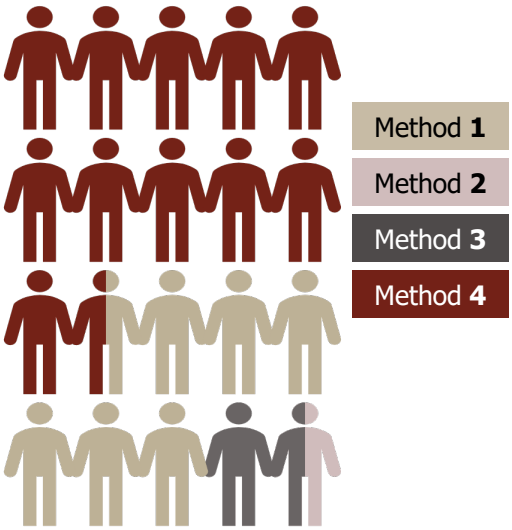


Figure 3 shows the percentage of young adults (ages 15 to 20 years old) with an instructional permit, Class D provisional license, or Class C license by county. Young drivers generally obtain their licenses for the first time under a Graduated Driver Licensing program as they learn driving skills. In 2024:

- There were 8.7 million licensed drivers in Georgia, and young drivers (ages 15 to 20 years old) accounted for 8% (692,892) of all licensed drivers.
- Across the state, 73% of all youth (ages 15 to 20 years old) hold either an instructional permit or a driver's license.
- The percentage of young adults holding an instructional permit or driver's license in rural counties (81%) was higher than young adults in the Atlanta region (73%) and other urban counties[2] (70%).

Figure 3. Percent of Young Adults (Ages 15-to-20 Years) with an Instructional Permit, Class D Provisional License, or Class C License[3] by County, 2024

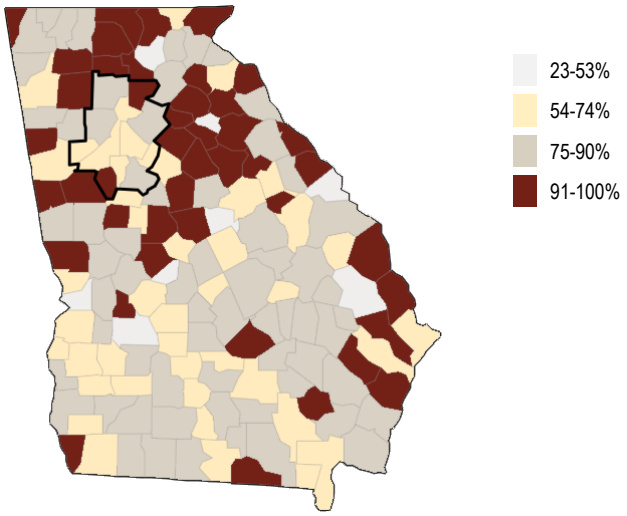
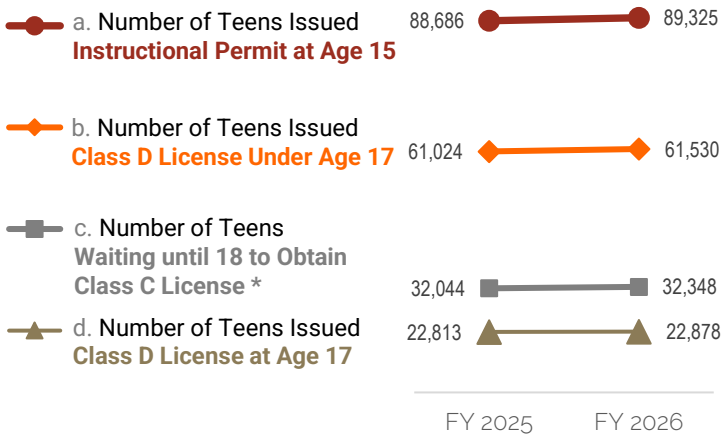


Figure 4 compares the types of licensing obtained across various age groups between FY2025 and FY2026. Overall, all four licensing categories experienced small increases from FY2025 to FY2026, suggesting relatively stable young-driver licensing patterns.

- The number of teens who were issued an instructional permit at age 15 increased by 2% (Figure 4a, circle icons).
- The number of teens who were issued a Class D license under 17 years increased by less than 1% (Figure 4b, diamond icons).
- The number of teens (ages 16 to 17 years) waiting until 18 to obtain a full license (Class C) increased by 1% (Figure 4c, square icons).
- The number of teens who were issued a Class D license at 17 years increased by 2% (Figure 4d, triangle icons).

Figure 4. Young Driver Age by License Type (FY2025 - FY2026)



Note: The vertical axis is not drawn to scale
* Class C licenses are not required to complete driver's education

[2] Rural counties are counties that have a residential population less than 50,000 persons. This is different than roadway classifications where urban road systems can be located in urban clusters (or metropolitan areas) of at least 2,500 persons within the rural counties.
[3] Source: Drivers licenses information obtained from the Department of Driver Service (Dec 2019); Estimated young adult population obtained from Georgia's Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

Commission History

The timeline below outlines the key historical milestones and events that have occurred since the establishment of the Georgia Driver's Education Commission (GDEC) in 2005.

JOSHUA'S LAW CREATES GDEC (2005)

Senate Bill 225 (2005), known as Joshua's Law, created the Georgia Driver's Education Commission (GDEC) 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 GDEC 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% in 2005, then 1.5% in 2013, and zero percent effective July 1, 2022), to establish funding to support driver's education programs throughout Georgia.

GOHS FACILITATES ALLOCATION OF GDEC FUNDS (2007)

In April 2007, through an agreement between the Georgia Department of Driver Services and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), GOHS facilitated the allocation of GDEC funds through grant funding to support driver's education programs. During FY2007 through FY2010, 58 programs received grant funding to create or support existing driver's education programs at public schools and libraries.

GDEC TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED (2011)

In FY2011, the grant program was suspended due to a lack of budget appropriation during the economic recession. The surcharge on traffic citations continued to be collected and appropriated to the State's general fund.

SENATE BILL 231 REDUCES SURCHARGE COLLECTION (2013)

During the 2013 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly, Senate Bill 231 extended the sunset of the GDEC until June 30, 2016, and reduced the amount of the surcharge collection from 5% to 1.5%.

BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS RESUMED (2015)

Budget appropriations resumed to the Commission in FY2015 and the Commission has since provided training to over 21,000 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 ASSIGNS GDEC TO GOHS (2016)

HB 806, during the 2016 legislative session, extended the sunset to June 30, 2019, and assigned GDEC to GOHS for administrative purposes.

GDEC STARTS THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (2017)

In FY2017, the Commission suspended support for driver's education programs and launched the Georgia Driver's Education Commission Grant Scholarship Program in March 2017. The program, open to the public (public high schools, technical colleges, universities, and other state-owned driver education programs) and privately owned entities (commercial, for-profit driving schools and non-profit organizations, and private schools), awards driver's education grant scholarships to students ages 15-to-17 years old who seek to complete a 36-hour driver's education program (also known as Method 1, which requires 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction with an approved instructor). The Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program was continued from FY2018 to FY2023 (using funds collected from surcharges applied before the discontinuation of the surcharge on citations, effective July 1, 2022)

CITATION SURCHARGE EXPIRED (2022)

The additional penalty imposed on traffic citations expired on July 1, 2022, after HB 202, which would have increased the surcharge from 1.5% to 3% and eliminated the sunset provision, died after the legislation failed to be considered on the Senate Floor on Sine Die. Unless the surcharge is reinstated or other appropriations are provided, the grant scholarship program will be suspended in future fiscal years.

CITATION SURCHARGE REINSTATED (2023)

The additional penalty imposed on traffic citations, which expired on July 1, 2022, was reinstated with the passage of HB 242. The surcharge was reinstated at 3% and was effective for traffic citations issued on or after July 1, 2023. Funds collected in Fiscal Year 2024 will, subject to appropriations, be allocated to the Commission during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget on July 1, 2024.

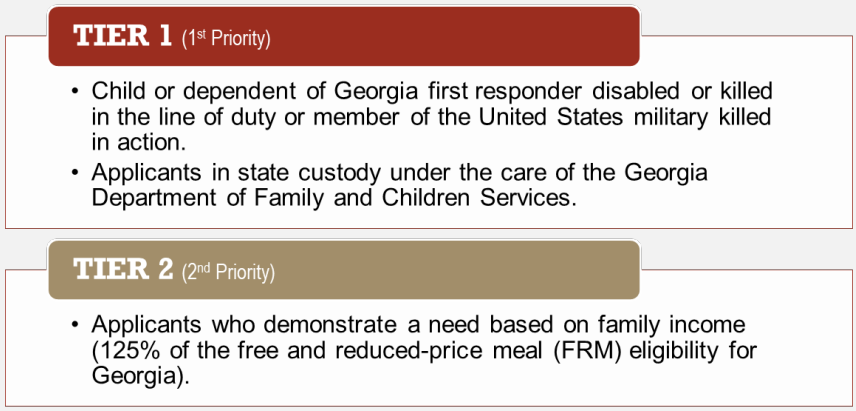
COMMISSION INCREASES REIMBURSEMENT RATE OF SCHOLARSHIP (2025)

The Commission has increased the maximum reimbursement rate for providers from $500 to $650—the first adjustment since the scholarship program began in 2017. This change was implemented to better align with inflation and the rising Consumer Price Index.

GDEC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS

For scholarship applications submitted between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, scholarships were awarded on a tiered priority system. First priority (Tier 1) is given to grant scholarship applicants who are a child or dependent of a Georgia first responder disabled or killed in the line of duty, or a member of the United States military killed in action, and to applicants who are in state custody under the care of the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. Second priority (Tier 2) is given to scholarship applicants who can demonstrate a need based on family income. All first-priority applicants are awarded before any second-priority applicants are awarded. Additionally, if there are insufficient scholarships for all applicants in any given priority level, scholarship recipients are determined at random by computer selection without human selection, and scholarships are evenly distributed among Georgia's United States Congressional Districts. The date of application submission does not affect the outcome of the scholarship award. Scholarships are awarded on the 1st day of each month by 11:59 pm. Notification of award or denial is sent by email. If awarded a scholarship, the award date of the scholarship must be prior to the first day of Instruction or class by the driver training school.

Students are only eligible to apply for a grant scholarship one time. However, if a student's application is rejected, the application will be reconsidered for the following two months and given priority over new applicants in their respective priority level. No action is needed to be reconsidered. The applicant will be notified by email on the first day of the following month by 11:59 pm with the outcome of the application on the second and third considerations.



PRIORITY TIERS

GDEC Scholarship Program Selection Process

Fiscal Year 2026 Activities

July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

In FY2026, a total of 9,441 applicants applied for the Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program. Of these, 1,713 applicants did not qualify based on the family income eligibility requirements, 22 provided inadequate documentation to determine eligibility, and 47 were not eligible because they were not enrolled in school. Among the 7,659 eligible applicants, the Commission awarded 7,219 driver's education scholarships. Nearly 9 out of every 10 eligible applicants (94%) received funding for driver education. Compared to the previous fiscal year, the number of scholarships awarded by the Commission increased by 10%.

Of the 7,219 scholarships awarded, 6,059 students (84%) redeemed their scholarships and completed driver's education through an authorized program provider in FY2026. These redeemed scholarships represent a total value of $3,109,746 paid through the driver's education grant program.

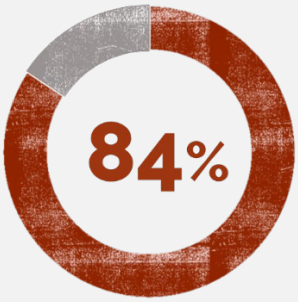
9 out of **10** eligible applicants

were awarded a scholarship in FY2026

(7,659 out of 9,441 applicants were eligible for the scholarship; of which 7,219 were awarded)

Scholarships awarded through the GDEC Scholarship program

Student scholarship recipients compared to FY25



Students redeemed their scholarships at an authorized provider

(6,059 out of 7,219 students)

Awarded in driver's education grant scholarships

CHALLENGES IN FY2026

Fiscal Year 2026 Scholarship Funding Adjustment

During FY2026, a coding error in the report used to calculate redeemed scholarship values resulted in scholarships being valued at outdated, lower provider rates. This caused the Commission to overestimate the amount of funds available for additional awards. The error was identified during fiscal-year-end close and resulted in $431,752.68 in scholarships being awarded in excess of the Commission's FY2026 budget.

To address the issue, 851 FY2026 scholarships will be paid using FY2027 funds. The error was corrected before provider payments were made, and no provider was paid more than the contracted rate applicable at the time of scholarship redemption. The final amount charged to FY2027 may be less than $431,752.68 due to scholarships that are unused or underutilized.

GDEC-AUTHORIZED PROVIDERS AND SCHOLARSHIPS REDEEMED

In FY2026, 51 authorized GDEC providers served 6,059 out of the 7,219 scholarship recipients across 124 locations, and applicants redeemed their scholarship awards. The total value of the scholarships redeemed in FY2026 was $3,109,746. The *median* cost per scholarship recipient across the GDEC-authorized providers in FY2026 was $495, with the average cost ranging from $275 to $650 per provider.

Table 1 below lists the driver's education providers participating in the program, the number of training locations operated by each provider, the number of scholarships redeemed by each provider, the financial value of the scholarships redeemed, and the average cost per recipient for each FY2026 provider.

Table 1. Number of Scholarships Redeemed, Value of Scholarships Redeemed, and Average Cost Per Recipient by Authorized GDEC Provider, FY2026

FY2026 Authorized GDEC Provider	Number of Locations	Number of Scholarships Redeemed	Value of Scholarships Redeemed	Average Cost Per Recipient
1 ACT Driving Schools, LLC	6	282	$ 159,186	$ 564
1st Stop Georgia Driving Academy	1	151	$ 77,495	$ 513
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	18	1,521	$ 752,895	$ 495
AA Academy of Action Driving School	1	74	$ 44,326	$ 599
Advance Driving Academy	2	200	$ 101,980	$ 510
Albany Technical College	2	88	$ 37,400	$ 425
Athens Technical College	1	16	$ 6,700	$ 419
Augusta Technical College	1	130	$ 55,250	$ 425
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	1	336	$ 178,820	$ 532
Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	1	92	$ 48,500	$ 527
Calhoun City BOE	1	8	$ 2,330	$ 291
Central Georgia Technical College	2	108	$ 46,625	$ 432
Coastal Pines Technical College	5	37	$ 16,200	$ 438
Collins Driving School	1	56	$ 36,400	$ 650
Columbus Technical College	1	6	$ 2,700	$ 450
Dickerson Driving School, Inc.	1	73	$ 43,435	$ 595
DriveSmart Georgia	4	61	$ 36,539	$ 599
Driving Under Intelligence DUI & Defensive Driving School LLC	1	3	$ 1,725	$ 575
Duluth DUI and Driving School	1	38	$ 21,850	$ 575
FB Driving, Inc.	1	23	$ 13,800	$ 600
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	1	97	$ 41,225	$ 425
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	6	114	$ 45,600	$ 400
Georgia Piedmont Technical College	1	7	$ 2,800	$ 400
Gordon County Board of Education	2	27	$ 7,965	$ 295

FY2026 Authorized GDEC Provider	Number of Locations	Number of Scholarships Redeemed	Value of Scholarships Redeemed	Average Cost Per Recipient
Gwinnett County Board of Education	11	132	$ 59,400	$ 450
Southern Defensive Driving School	1	26	$ 10,270	$ 395
Taggart's Driving School	3	119	$ 77,350	$ 650
Lanier Technical College	1	24	$ 10,800	$ 450
Marietta City Board of Education	1	129	$ 66,921	$ 519
Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	3	43	$ 27,950	$ 650
New London School of Driving Inc.	1	266	$ 139,650	$ 525
North Georgia Technical College	3	108	$ 43,200	$ 400
Oconee County Board of Education	1	24	$ 10,800	$ 450
Oconee Fall Line Technical College	3	14	$ 6,300	$ 450
Ogeechee Technical College	1	40	$ 16,000	$ 400
Pinnacle Pointe DUI & Driving Schools	2	245	$ 159,250	$ 650
Safe America Foundation, Inc.	1	3	$ 1,722	$ 574
Savannah Technical College	4	116	$ 46,400	$ 400
Kennesaw Driving School	2	90	$ 49,410	$ 549
The Wiser Driver	1	92	$ 47,380	$ 515
South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	2	96	$ 57,529	$ 599
South Georgia Technical College	2	9	$ 3,375	$ 375
Southeastern Regional Driving and Safety Academy Inc	1	74	$ 29,230	$ 395
Southeastern Technical College	2	18	$ 7,200	$ 400
Southern Crescent Technical College	4	50	$ 22,500	$ 450
Southern Regional Technical College	3	74	$ 26,750	$ 361
Thumbs Up Driving Inc.	1	121	$ 66,547	$ 550
West Georgia Technical College	2	39	$ 15,550	$ 399
West Metro Driving School	1	484	$ 289,916	$ 599
White County Board of Education	1	4	$ 1,100	$ 275
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	4	71	$ 35,500	$ 500
FY 2026 TOTAL	**124**	**6,059**	**$ 3,109,746**	**$ 513 Average**

Funding History

According to O.C.G.A. §15-21-181, 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. In other words, the amount of funds collected in any fiscal year is appropriated to the Commission for the following fiscal year. Table 2 shows the funds collected and appropriated to the Commission from FY2022 to FY2026.

Beginning in FY2026, the Office of Planning and Budget changed this process to provide a two-year lag between collections and appropriation. Under the new process, funds collected in FY2025 will be appropriated in FY2027. This approach allows for more accurate projections and greater stability in the Commission's annual budget.

In FY2026, $5.89 million in surcharge revenue was collected and should equal the appropriation in FY2028.

Table 2. Amounts of Funds Collected and Appropriated to the Commission by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Amounts of Funds Collected	Amount of Funds Appropriated to the Commission
FY 2022	$ 2,785,079.85	$ 2,489,649.00
FY 2023	$ 1,495,070.98	$ 2,785,080.00
FY 2024	$ 3,452,309.74	$ 2,210,027.00
FY 2025	$ 5,471,252.55	$ 3,452,309.00
FY 2026	$ 5,887,274.00	$ 3,454,020.00

GEORGIA
Driver's Education
COMMISSION

Georgia Driver's Education Commission
https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/gdec/
gdec@gohs.ga.gov
(404) 656-2769