

# SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS-TRAFFIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

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**Initial Sign up: Fall Registration. Payment must accompany form or be paid prior to session.**

*Tentative Dates: Sept. 5-Late Jan. (session I {2 groups}), Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – Mid March (session II {1 group})*

Any student who is 14.5 years of age by Oct 5<sup>th</sup> first session, 14.5 years of age by Nov.7<sup>th</sup> second session. Open to Sidney High School students, Liberty Christian students, home school students.

**Cost: currently \$300** (subject to board approval) and payment is required before beginning the program.

**Mandatory parent meeting will be held during each session. You must attend the meeting during the session for which your child is participating (session I or session II)**

Notice: Registration fee is currently **\$300.00** per participant made payable to **Sidney High School**. The \$300.00 fee must be paid by first day of session. Enrollment is limited; with average class size being 24 students per teacher per session. Registration cannot be guaranteed until payment is received, and in accordance with the selection criterion.

**FULL LEGAL STUDENT NAME** (AS IT APPEARS ON CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE)

\_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Session (not guaranteed) 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>

Requests for sessions will be considered, however, placement in sessions is based on grade level, age, and activities involved with to assist in limiting interruptions to the training.

Is your son/daughter participating in school activities or sports during the time that this class will be offered? **YES NO** (circle one). If yes, please list the activities/sports below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Student Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## PROGRAM

**Mission Statement:** *To educate and prepare our students to meet the challenges of safely operating a vehicle; teach best-practices in the skills of maneuvering any vehicle; and to work collaboratively with public and private entities to work toward zero fatalities on Montana highways.*

SPS traffic education classes are offered at different times throughout the school year, both first and second semester. Classes are offered September-January (generally 2 sessions) and November-April (one session). Classes are offered to **high school aged students who live within our school district boundaries** first and if openings remain, the oldest 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may be considered for available space. Classes are limited to 24 students each. A spring session may be added based on numbers.

Each class will meet for a minimum of **21 classroom days and 7 days of driving/observation**. These days are set by the **State of Montana** and are a **requirement** for students to be successful in completing traffic education. Classes are held after school one to two times per week and driving will take place after school as well as on weekends and PIR/Vacation days.

**Class time is set by the State of Montana and is mandatory for the successful completion of the course, consider family/student schedules: sports, vacations, jobs, etc.** As coaches often change scheduled practices on short notice it will be up to the parent and student to communicate with their coach if the new time conflicts with traffic education. **We are providing you with the advanced information on our program to help you plan your child's activities and to determine which session would be the best fit. With the number of practice time changes that have occurred over the past few years, we can no longer accommodate every change.**

Traffic education is **NOT** a school requirement **NOR** is it a requirement for students to get their license after the age of sixteen. It **IS** a requirement in Montana for students who wish to obtain their driver's license prior to the age of 16.

Driving, like any other learned skill, takes many hours of practice. Driver education will provide a base of skills and knowledge upon which students build by practicing with their parents in order to become proficient drivers. The SPS Traffic Education program strives to provide teens with a foundation that will instill safety, caution, and basic understanding of vehicle laws in force in the State of Montana.

Acceptance into the program is based on available space, with priority given to students attending Sidney High School or homeschool/private school students who are of high school age. If space remains available, the oldest students in grade 8 may be invited to join the class. Students who miss three days of classroom and fail to make up the absences at the time specified by the instructor will fail for the entire course and may re-register for the next course **without having to re-pay the fee.**

As a reminder to all potential traffic education students, please be aware that in order for a student to legally drive on a public roadway without a trained and certified instructor, the student **MUST** have a Traffic Education Learners License (TELL) in the possession and **MUST** be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or licensed 18-year old occupying the front passenger seat at all times. **Students caught driving without a parent or legal guardian in the front seat may be removed from the program.**

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Students are expected to be in good standing with the school as well as with all legal entities. If a student receives an MIP, moving violation or vehicle citation from any law enforcement agency while enrolled in the SPS driver's education program, he/she may immediately be suspended from the program. The parent and the student may petition the school district for reinstatement in the next available session at no additional cost.

If a student needs to re-schedule a driving time due to an absence, it will be the **student's responsibility to pay the instructor \$15 per lesson to make up that time (board policy)**. If more than two absences occur in the behind-the-wheel portion of the class, the student will be dropped from the session with the option of the student petitioning to be in the next available session at no additional cost. **The program will not be extended to make up for missed classroom or driving times. If a student fails to meet the State of Montana requirements by the end date specified by the instructor, they will be considered to have failed the class.**

A written State of Montana Test for the TELL permit will be given by the classroom instructor after the sixth class. If a student does not pass the test (82% or better), the test can be retaken with the instructor one additional time. If the student still fails to attain and 82% or greater, the student will need to retake the exam at the Department of Motor Vehicles after records of class participation are submitted as indicated by the instructor. The State Driver's License fee paid at the exam station includes the opportunity to retake the test however **SPS fee for traffic education does not cover taking the test at the exam station.**

Our Driver Education Program also includes the State of Montana Behind-the-Wheel Driving Test during the final weeks of our program only if the written test is passed. NOTE: On the State portion of the driving test the student may make up to eight (8) simple mistakes and pass. If the student does not pass this driving test, the test must be retaken at the Department of Motor Vehicles, but not before all of the requirements for the first phase of the GDL are complete (6 months and 50 hours of supervised practice).

**Please note: Ten (10%) percent of the students who are recommended for a driver's license are randomly retested by the State of Montana.** *Instructors do not have any control over which students are retested.*

A list of students who have satisfactorily completed the Driver Education Class will be submitted to the Driver Examination Office approximately one (1) Week after **ALL STUDENTS** have completed the class. Students **MUST** have a TELL permit by then. No one may proceed with the licensing procedure until 6 months and 50 hours (10 at night) are completed for the GDL by the student and parent.

There will be a **mandatory** parent meeting prior to each class session or following the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes. The location of the meeting will be shared with students and parents involved in that session. **Not attending the meeting could result in your student not being allowed to participate in that session and opening a spot for another student who is waiting to get in (unless previous arrangements are made with the instructor).**

Links:

<https://dojmt.gov/driving/appointments/> Schedule Appt.

<https://media.dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/Montana-Driver-Manual-Electronic-Copy-June-2016.pdf>

Manual for licensing

<https://media.dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/21-1600-15-Web-version.pdf> driving certification form

[https://media.dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/Graduated-Driver-License-Program-Log-Sheet\\_v1.pdf](https://media.dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/Graduated-Driver-License-Program-Log-Sheet_v1.pdf) Driving Log Sheet

<https://media.dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/3-15-17-Eye-Evaluation-22-1801.pdf> Eye evaluation form



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[http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/DriverEd/RR/GDL\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/DriverEd/RR/GDL_Fact_Sheet.pdf) Graduated Driver Licensing in Montana

<https://www.ssa.gov/> Social Security Administration