

Safe Driving Lesson Plan

State Driving Laws

Grade level: 10-12

Subject area: Civics

Duration: 20-50 minutes

Objectives:

Students will do the following:

- Study traffic laws in their state — how are these laws designed to increase safety on the roads?
- Discuss ways in which behaviors affect safe driving, plus ways to improve driving safety.

Materials:

Impact Posters
Impact Probability Wheel
Impact DVD mini-documentaries

Procedures:

1. Discuss traffic laws in your state, such as:

What is required to get a driver's license?

For example, in California:

Provisional Instruction Permits

- If you are under 18 and at least 15 ½, you can apply for a provisional driver's license. The first step to getting your license is to get your instruction permit. Because you are under 18, your permit and driver's license are called, "Provisional." This means you have additional restrictions placed on your permit and driver's license that adults (18 and over) do not have. Your provisional instruction permit will have the following restrictions:
 - You must obey the traffic laws
 - You must drive without a collision
 - You must drive with your parent, guardian, spouse, or an adult 25 years of age or older, who has a valid California driver's license
 - You must hold your permit for six months before you can take your driving test to get your driver's license
 - What other provisional requirements can you identify?

Driver's License

To take your driving test you must:

- Be 16 years old
- Have held your California instruction permit for a minimum of six months
- Have completed driver's education
- Have completed six hours of professional driver training
- Have completed 50 hours of practice with an adult 25 of age years or older. The adult must have a valid California driver's license and certify the 50 hours of practice. At least 10 of the 50 hours must have been done at night.

What are the new laws regarding using a cell phone while driving?

- Driver's cannot use a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle, (California Vehicle Code [VC] §23123). Motorists 18 and over may use a "hands-free device.
- Drivers under the age of 18 cannot use a wireless telephone *or* hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle (VC §23124).
- The new Wireless Communications Device Law (effective January 1, 2009) makes it an infraction to write, send, or read text-based communication on an electronic wireless communications device, such as a cell phone, while driving a motor vehicle.

How many states have laws similar to California's? Compare and contrast states in your surrounding area. Are they similar or different? Do they have higher percentage of teen traffic deaths or lower? Why are these laws important? How can they help reduce the number of crashes?

2. Use the probability wheel to show how driving behaviors affect your chances of getting in a crash.

Standards

The following standards are from the American Association for Health Education for students in grades 9-12:

- Propose ways to reduce or prevent injuries
- Analyze personal susceptibility to injury or death if engaging in unhealthy behaviors
- Analyze the potential severity of injury if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.