




NEW JERSEY

TEEN DRIVER
STUDY COMMISSION

REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

TEEN DRIVER STUDY COMMISSION



- TDSC established through legislation (Assembly Bill A617), (Senate Bill S1962)
 - Signed into law by Governor Corzine March, 2007
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MISSION

To conduct a comprehensive review of teen driving in New Jersey and make recommendations that will ultimately reduce crashes and save lives.

TDSC MEMBERS



- Legislators
- School administrators
- Government and law enforcement officials
- AAA, driving school and insurance industry professionals
- Teen driver
- PTA member

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TDSC TOOLS & TIMETABLE

Public Hearings, Expert Panels and an in-depth examination of available research were used to assess the problem.

Six month timetable to complete work and report back to the Governor and Legislature.

YOUNG DRIVERS IN NEW JERSEY



- Every 9 minutes a teen crashes in New Jersey
 - Car crashes #1 killer of teens (17-20 year olds)
 - 2001-2006, more than 400 NJ teen drivers/passengers killed in crashes
 - Teen drivers represent 5% of driving population, but are involved in 12% of crashes
 - 55,792 teen driver crashes in 2006, down 5% since 2002
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NINE MOST COMMON MISTAKES TEENS MAKE BEHIND-THE-WHEEL

- Overconfidence; “it can’t happen to me” attitude
- Failing to buckle up
- Talking on a cell phone or texting
- Speeding
- Impaired driving
- Passenger distractions
- Driving at night
- Failure to anticipate potential dangers
- Ignoring car maintenance

SEVEN KEY AREAS



- Graduated Driver License
 - Driver Education
 - Driver Training
 - Enforcement/Judicial
 - Insurance Industry
 - Schools
 - Technology
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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION I

Develop an event-based GDL monitoring program that includes sanctions (training, suspension and postponement) that effectively deter GDL and non-serious and serious motor vehicle violations.

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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION II

Until event-based monitoring and enhanced sanctions are implemented, ban plea agreements for traffic offenses committed by GDL holders.

ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION III



Implement the programming changes necessary to ensure that MVC's current and pending computer system can accommodate all components of the GDL law.



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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION IV

Develop a GDL identifier that must be affixed to a vehicle when driven by a permit or probationary license holder.

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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION V

Require a parent/guardian to attend a teen driver orientation program with his or her teen prior to applying for a permit.

ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION VI



Require teens to complete a minimum number of hours of certified practice driving during the permit phase.



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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION VII

Extend the permit phase from a minimum of six months to one year for all new drivers 16 to 20 years of age.

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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION VIII

Limit the number of passengers in the probationary phase to one regardless of the passenger's relationship to the driver.

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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION IV

Sanction, in addition to the teen driver, all passengers 16 to 20 years of age on a permit, probationary or basic license, who violate the GDL passenger and safety belt restrictions.

ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION X




Lower the nighttime driving hours restriction from 12 a.m. to 11 p.m. for probationary license holders.



ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION XI



Close the loophole in the seat belt law to ensure all back seat passengers 18 years of age and older buckle up.



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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION XII

Appropriate funding for driver education through the GDL-mandated Driver Education Fund.

ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION XIII



Develop and deliver to public and private schools a standardized traffic safety/driver education curriculum and incorporate it into New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards for students in grades K-12.



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ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATION XIII

Amend the GDL law and the corresponding regulations to clearly define six hours of behind-the-wheel driver training.

THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL




Permit Phase

- Minimum age of 16
 - Pass vision screening and written test
 - Complete a parent/guardian teen orientation
 - Hold a permit for a minimum of one year
 - Minimum 6 hours behind-the-wheel training for 16 year old permit holder, optional for permit holders 17-20 years of age
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THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL




Permit Phase (cont)

- Minimum 50 hours of certified practice driving (10 of those hours must be at night)
 - Minimum of 100 hours of certified practice driving (20 of those hours must be at night) without behind-the-wheel training
 - Display a “GDL” identifier (color specific) on vehicle
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THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL




Permit Phase Restrictions

- Limit of one passenger **regardless of relationship to driver**
(unless passenger is 25 years of age or older)
 - No driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
 - No use of portable electronic devices (i.e., hand-held or hands-free cell phones, ipods, video games, etc.)
 - Driver and all passengers must wear seat belts
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THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL



Probationary Phase

- Complete all requirements of the permit phase
 - Pass skills/road test
 - Minimum age of 17
 - Hold probationary license for one year
 - Display a “GDL” identifier (color specific) on vehicle
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THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL


Probationary Phase Restrictions

- **Limit of one passenger regardless of relationship to the license holder**
(unless passenger is 25 years of age or older)
- **No driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.** (waiver available for employment and religious activities and/or emergency situations)
- **No use of portable electronic devices** (i.e., hand-held or hands-free cell phones, ipods, video games, etc.)
- **Driver and all passengers must wear seat belts**

EVENT BASED SANCTIONS



Non-Serious Violations:

- 1st offense – attend an MVC approved driver improvement program (license suspension for non-compliance) and 60-day postponement of full licensure
 - 2nd offense – 60-day license suspension and 120-day postponement of licensure
 - 3rd and subsequent offense – 90-day license suspension and 180-day postponement of full licensure.
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EVENT BASED SANCTIONS

Serious Violations:

- 180-day suspension and postponement for all GDL holders committing serious violations (i.e., high rate of speed, racing, reckless driving, leaving the scene of a crash)

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PASSENGER SANCTIONS

- Passenger and seat belt violations result in assessment of the GDL fine (\$100) and event-based sanctions for all GDL license holders (permit and probationary phase) or Basic license holders 16 to 20 years of age in the vehicle.

NEXT STEPS



Reactivate State Driver Education Committee to ensure recommendations are championed, enacted and monitored.

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New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety

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