

Driver Education Information

The classroom driver education course is offered as part of the 10th grade Health and Physical Education curriculum in all high schools. You cannot take 10th grade health and physical education until the Health and Physical Education 9 is completed.

The curriculum includes a mandatory 90-minute parent/student session focusing on communication and collaboration to ensure safe driving habits. **Exemptions are only for** students who are at least 18 years old, emancipated minors, and unaccompanied minors not in parental custody.

Below, you will find information on:

1. Steps to getting your driver's license
2. Classroom Driver Education (including obtaining your classroom completion card for behind the wheel).
3. Parent Teen Driver Meeting
4. Behind the Wheel
5. How to get your PDL from school (this only applies to you IF you took/passed BTW through SCPS and are eligible)

If you have questions about obtaining your DEC-1 card from CFHS (the orange classroom completion card) for Behind the Wheel, please reach out to:

- Laurie Phalen- phalenli@staffordschools.net
- Rob Broxton- broxtonrl@staffordschools.net

Please reach out to your school's driver education coordinator or behind the wheel instructors for questions.

Driver Education Coordinator Information		
School	Person	Phone Number
Brooke Point High School	Matt Tucker	540-842-5294
Colonial Forge High School	Da'Sean Davis	540-658-6115
Hartwood High School	Dustin Maghan	540-654-9095
	Fernando Ramos	
Mountain View High School	Philip Way	540-658-6840
North Stafford High School	Kathryn Barbarczuk	540-658-6150
Stafford High School	Howard Coleman	540-371-7200

Steps to getting your driver's license

Here are the steps for your teen to receive their driver's license:

1. **Get your permit** (earliest eligibility is 15 and 6 months) at the DMV. You must pass with 100% on the Road Signs Test and at least 80% on the General Knowledge exam. Please check the DMV website for appointment information and walk-in services.
 - a. [Study Guides](#)
2. **Take and pass the classroom driver education.** This means achieving a passing grade and completing all 36 hours of driver education classroom instruction.
3. **Attend the Parent-Teen Driver Meeting.** It is a requirement for both the student and the parent/guardian to attend the Parent-Teen Driver Meeting before starting behind the wheel. **Attendance is mandatory for all students and is a curricular component of classroom driver education. Students will not receive their DEC-1 cards which shows completion of classroom Driver Education until this requirement is met. Steps 1-3 can be completed in any order, but all three steps must be completed before moving on to step 4.**
4. **Take and pass the behind-the-wheel course.** Behind-the-wheel is a mandatory road skills course for students under 18 years old. To be eligible for Behind the Wheel, students must have a valid Virginia learner's permit, passed classroom driver education, and attended the Parent-Teen Driver Meeting. The fee for Stafford County Behind the Wheel is \$300.
5. **Complete 45 hours of driving (including 15 hours at night).**
6. **Hold a Virginia learner's permit for 9 months.**
Steps 4-6 can be completed in any order but must be completed before the provisional driver's license is issued.
7. **Receive a provisional driver's license.** This temporary license is issued by the company that provided your behind-the-wheel training. This license is a piece of paper and, along with your permit, serves as your official driver's license for the next 180 days.
8. **You will receive your hard copy license in the mail.**

Classroom Driver Education

Classroom driver education is a requirement for students under the age of 18. The classroom instruction will be given during the student's PE class during the 10th grade school year. Students must be present for all 36 periods of classroom instruction AND pass the class in order to be eligible to take behind the wheel.

The Parent Teen Meeting is now a mandatory part of classroom driver education (as of July 1, 2023). Classroom driver education is not complete until the meeting has been attended by student and parent/guardian.

DEC-1 Cards (the classroom completion cards) can be requested by email. If you need your classroom completion card to start behind the wheel, please email your driver education teacher or the behind the wheel instructor. **You will not be able to receive your DEC-1 card until you've met all classroom requirements (passing the class and attending the parent teen driver education meeting).**

The Parent-Teen Driver Meeting

The Parent-Teen Driver Meeting is a mandatory part of classroom driver education (classroom driver education is not complete until the meeting has been attended by student and parent/guardian). The purpose of the meeting is to reduce the number of car crashes and save lives of teen drivers through parent awareness and education. This required parent meeting targets parents as key players in influencing teens to drive safely and responsibly. The meeting will bring together parents, students, schools, law enforcement and community resources for an awareness campaign. All meetings will be held in that school's auditorium.

- You only need to attend ONE meeting.
- Please arrive 15 minutes early to the meeting because there is a sign in process.
- All meetings will start promptly at the times listed below.
- Anyone showing up 15 minutes after the start of the meeting will need to attend the next meeting offered.
- If you have any questions please contact your building coordinator for Driver Education at your high school.

2026 - 2027 Meeting Dates		
Date	Location	Time
August 24, 2026	All five county high schools will be hosting a meeting. You should attend your base high school's meeting.	7:00pm - 8:30pm
September 28, 2026	Hartwood High School	6:30pm - 8:00pm
October 26, 2026	Brooke Point High School	6:30pm - 8:00pm
November 9, 2026	Colonial Forge High School	6:30pm - 8:00pm
January 11, 2027	Mountain View High School	6:30pm - 8:00pm
March 8, 2027	Stafford High School	6:30pm - 8:00pm
May 3, 2027	North Stafford High School	6:30pm - 8:00pm

Behind the Wheel

In Virginia, teenagers seeking a driver's license before 18 must participate in a Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) program. This program focuses on evaluating and honing existing driving skills in a controlled environment.

Key Points:

- The program typically takes 8-9 school days.
- Scheduling prioritizes students based on their learner's permit date. All program requirements must be met to participate.
- We cannot guarantee participation for all applicants in a single school year.

You can fill out Forge's Behind the Wheel interest form for 2026 - 2027 here: **COMING IN AUGUST OF 2026**

**You must be signed into your google school account to access the form.*

Prerequisites for taking behind the wheel:

1. Must have taken and passed the classroom Drivers Education Course.
2. Must have valid Virginia learners permit
3. Complete and attend 90 Minute Parent Teen Meeting.
4. Parent permission form completed (will be sent out once you are contacted about behind the wheel).
5. Pay the \$300 registration fee (only when you are contacted about your behind the wheel start date).

Please contact your school's behind the wheel instructor for information about after school behind the wheel.