

## Chapter PI 21

### DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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**PI 21.01 Applicability and purpose.** This chapter establishes uniform marking standards for vehicles used as driver education vehicles pursuant to s. 341.267 (1) (b), Stats.; establishes minimum standards which all high school driver education programs must meet to obtain department approval under s. 343.06 (3), Stats.; establishes standards for issuance of Wisconsin driver education certificates; and establishes minimum standards which driver education programs must meet to be eligible to receive state aid under s. 121.41 (1), Stats.

**Note:** Section 121.41 (1), Stats., was repealed by 2003 Wis. Act 33 eff. 7-1-04.  
**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 7-1-86.

**PI 21.02 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Behind-the-wheel instruction" means that portion of the driver education program in which the student is actually driving a vehicle.

(2) "CESA" means a cooperative educational service agency, under ch. 116, Stats.

(3) "CHCEB" means county handicapped children's education boards, under ch. 115, Stats.

(4) "Classroom instruction" includes both individual or group teaching and learning activities which involve study of the inter-relationship of persons and the motor vehicle within the traffic environment.

(5) "Department" means the department of public instruction.

(6) "Laboratory instruction" means that portion of the program which provides students the opportunity for driving experiences and includes behind-the-wheel instruction, observation instruction, and simulation instruction.

(7) "Multiple-vehicle driving range instruction" or "range instruction" means that portion of the program on which the student is driving a vehicle on a designated off-street facility on which a number of motor vehicles operate simultaneously.

(8) "Observation instruction" means the instruction which occurs during the time a student is a passenger in a vehicle in which another student is receiving behind-the-wheel instruction.

(9) "On-street instruction" means that portion of the program in which a student is driving a vehicle on public streets or highways in a dual-controlled vehicle under the supervision of a driver education teacher, or is a passenger in the vehicle while another student is driving.

(10) "Private school" means an institution which operates a high school level educational program and meets the criteria under s. 118.165 (1), Stats., or has been determined to be a private school under s. 118.167, Stats.

(11) "Simulation instruction" means the use of synthetic training devices to prepare a student for driving a real motor vehicle.

(12) "TCS" means a technical college system district established under ch. 38, Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1986, No. 364, eff. 7-1-86; correction in (12) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 6., Stats., Register, March, 1996, No. 483.

**PI 21.03 Uniform marking standards.** (1) All motor vehicles used as driver education vehicles in programs operated

by public school districts, private schools, CHCEBs, CESAs and TCSs shall be marked with signs as follows:

(a) The sign inscription shall read STUDENT DRIVER or DRIVER EDUCATION. The letters of the inscription shall be at least 2 inches in height and the inscription shall be visible from the front, back and both sides of the vehicle.

(b) The school shall choose one of the following combinations of size and type of signs:

1. Signs which are at least 9 inches by 18 inches placed on each side of the vehicle, and signs which are at least 6 inches by 12 inches placed on the front and rear of the vehicle;

2. Signs which are at least 9 inches by 18 inches placed on each side of the vehicle, and a 2-sided sign which is at least 9 inches by 18 inches placed on the roof of the vehicle; or

3. A 3-sided sign on which each side is at least 5 inches by 16 inches placed on the roof of the vehicle.

(c) The sign shall be school bus yellow with black lettering.

(2) The markings shall be removed when the vehicle is being operated for other than behind-the-wheel instruction or necessary maintenance and storage.

(3) The school's name shall be on the sign. If the vehicle is a dealer-loan vehicle, the dealer's name may be on the sign. The school's name and dealer's name may be in letters less than 2 inches in height.

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 7-1-86; correction in (1) (intro.) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 6., Stats., Register, March, 1996, No. 483.

**PI 21.04 Minimum standards for department approval under s. 343.06 (3), Stats.** A public school, private school, CHCEB, or CESA driver education program shall be approved by the department under s. 343.06 (3), Stats., if the program uses vehicles which meet the requirements of s. PI 21.03 and the program meets the following requirements:

(1) COURSE STANDARDS.

(a) A driver education course shall include the following:

1. At least 30 hours of classroom instruction,

2. At least 6 hours of observation instruction, and

3. At least 6 hours of actual on-street behind-the-wheel instruction.

a. Multiple-vehicle driving range instruction may be substituted for up to 4 hours of the required 6 hours of on-street instruction using a formula that 2 hours of multiple-vehicle driving range instruction is equivalent to one hour of on-street instruction.

b. Simulation instruction may be substituted for up to 3 hours of the required 6 hours of on-street instruction using a formula that 4 hours of simulation instruction is equivalent to one hour of on-street instruction.

c. When both simulation and range laboratory instruction methods are used, the program must include at least 2 hours of actual on-street behind-the-wheel instruction.

(b) During the regular school year, the classroom course shall extend over at least 6 weeks for each student. During a summer school program, the classroom course shall extend over at least 3 weeks for each student.

(c) The on–street driving instruction shall extend over at least 3 weeks for each student. No student may spend more than one hour per day actually behind–the–wheel in the on–street instruction. The one hour limitation does not include observation instruction.

**(2) REFRESHER COURSE.** If more than one year and one month elapses between completion of the classroom instruction and commencement of the laboratory instruction, a refresher course of classroom instruction shall be required. The refresher course shall be at least 10 hours, and shall include a course of study deemed appropriate by the school district.

**(3) TEACHER REQUIREMENTS.** Teachers of the classroom instruction, simulation instruction, range instruction, and on–street instruction shall possess a valid license to teach driver education issued by the department as required in s. PI 3.21 (2).

**Note:** Section PI 3.21 (2) was repealed eff. 7–1–04.

**(4) APPROVAL PROCEDURES.** A public or private high school, CHCEB, or CESA shall submit its driver education course plan to the department for approval on forms provided by the department. The course may not be taught until the plan is approved. Any proposed change in a course which has been approved by the department shall be submitted to the department for approval prior to its implementation.

**Note:** Form PI 1709 Driver education program approval, may be obtained from Bureau for Pupil Services, Department of Public Instruction, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707.

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 7–1–86.

**PI 21.05 Issuance of Wisconsin driver education certificates.** **(1)** Annually, public school districts, private schools, CHCEBs, and CESAs shall certify to the department the number of students who have satisfactorily completed the approved driver education program.

**Note:** Form PI 1715 Application for driver education certificates.

**(2)** The department shall provide a Wisconsin driver education certificate for each student who was certified to have satisfactorily completed the approved driver education program, as provided by s. 343.06 (3), Stats.

**Note:** Form PI 1714 Wisconsin driver education certificate.

**(3)** In this section, “satisfactorily completed” means the student received a passing grade and participated in at least the required number of hours of instruction as required in s. PI 21.04 (1).

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 7–1–86.

**PI 21.06 Driver education aid.** **(1)** To be eligible to receive state aid under the provisions of s. 121.41 (1), Stats., a driver education program shall meet the requirements of ss. PI 21.03 and 21.04, and the requirements of this section.

**Note:** Section 121.41 (1), Stats., was repealed by 2003 Wis. Act 33 eff. 7–1–04.

**(2)** Aids shall be paid for eligible students as defined in sub. (3) who are residents of Wisconsin and who, during the preceding year, completed an approved driver education course. In this section, “completed” means the student participated in at least the required number of hours of instruction as required in s. PI 21.04 (1).

**(3)** Aids shall be paid for the following categories of eligible students:

(a) During the school year, students enrolled in a high school.

(b) During the summer program, any person not over 19 years of age.

**(4)** During a cooperative program between a public and a private high school in which the private high school offers either the classroom or laboratory phase of the total program and the public high school offers the other instructional phase of the total program, the aids shall be paid to the public school district.

**(5)** School districts and CHCEBs applying for this aid shall report annually the number of students successfully completing the approved driver education course and other detailed information, including expenditures for salaries, equipment, and supplies for the course, on the annual report to the state superintendent.

**Note:** Form PI–1505 School district annual report, required by s. 120.18, Stats., or Form PI 1550 CHCEB annual report, authorized by s. 115.28 (13), Stats.

**(6)** Aids shall be paid for programs taught in part by a public high school and in part by a TCS school. Such programs shall be established by action of both the board of education of the district operating the high school and the local TCS board which are involved. Each board shall be responsible for that portion of the program taught as a part of its curriculum. However, the entire program shall be reported for approval by the public school district and aid shall be claimed by and paid to the public school district. Any distribution of the aid may be made locally as agreed upon between the respective boards. The responsibility for distributing the aid to the respective districts shall be specified in the action establishing the cooperative program.

**(7)** Aids paid for programs taught by a CESA under an agreement between a CESA and a public school district shall be claimed by and paid to the public school district. Aids may be paid only if the instructors are licensed as required by s. PI 21.04 (3) and are CESA or school district employees.

**(8)** Aids shall be paid to TCSs for programs which are approved by the technical college system board under s. 343.06 (3), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 7–1–86; corrections in (6) and (8) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 6., Stats., Register, March, 1996, No. 483.