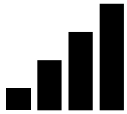


5583 Report Overview

The Improving Young Driver Safety (ESSB 5583) Implementation Plan, developed collaboratively by the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL), and Washington State University (WSU), and with input from the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state of driver education in Washington. While ESSB 5583 mandates the expansion of driver education to individuals aged 18 to 24, this plan recognizes the critical need to first establish a strong foundation within the existing driver education system before expanding requirements.

Currently, the infrastructure of both public and private driver education programs is insufficient to accommodate an expansion of mandatory training. Therefore, this plan prioritizes enhancing the quality and accessibility of driver education for those under 18, while laying the groundwork for expansion to older age groups. This groundwork includes:



Strengthening the Instructor Workforce: Increasing the number of qualified instructors through improved training, certification pathways, and ongoing support to grow capacity.



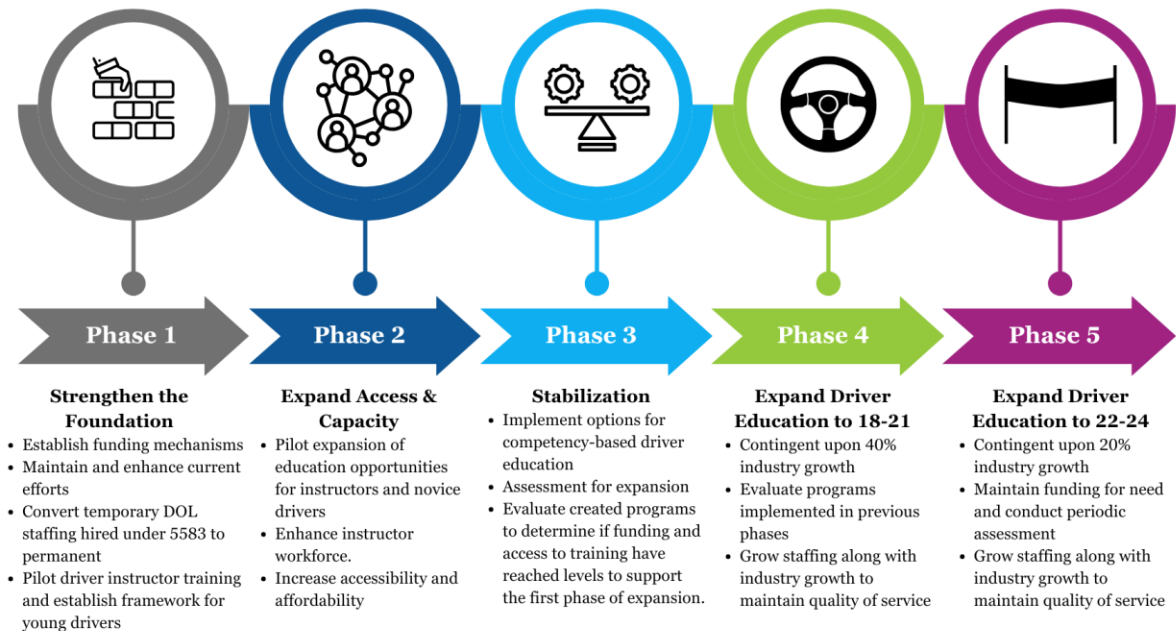
Enhancing Access and Affordability: Expanding access to driver education for all individuals under 18 years old, particularly in underserved communities, through increased awareness of resources, financial aid programs, and diverse curriculum delivery methods.



Fostering Diversity and Inclusion: Creating a more diverse and inclusive driver education industry by supporting aspiring driver training school owners and instructors from varied backgrounds.

This plan outlines a phased approach to achieving the long-term goal of expanding driver education requirements to include novice drivers aged 18 to 24 by 2028. Recognizing the need for foundational improvements before expanding requirements, this plan prioritizes strengthening the existing driver education system and increasing access for all young people. Each phase builds upon the previous one, ensuring a strong foundation for sustainable improvements to driver safety.

Phased Approach to Young Driver Safety



Washington State University Feasibility Study

- Create sustainably funded scholarship or grant programs to provide free or reduced cost driver education.
- Provide grant funding to support current driver education and / or expansion, prioritizing high-need areas.
- Communicate resources available for driver education more effectively.
- DOL needs to take specific action to address existing infrastructure challenges and instructor shortages.

Expansion of Current Driving Requirement

- Build infrastructure and increase accessibility prior to expanding mandatory driver education to 18 to 24-year-olds.
 - Help reduce delay of licensure for 16-17-year-olds by increasing financial support, outreach, and mentoring for driver education.
- Research the effectiveness of extending graduated driver licensing (GDL) regulations to persons aged 18 to 24-years-old, with or without a driver training requirement.
 - Research the extension of GDL without driver education.
 - Pilot the extension of driver education to 18 to 24-year-olds with specific conditions.

Mandatory Refresher Course

- Pilot educational training focused on hazard-based perception and risk management offered at the time of license renewal.
- Advance driver licensure from a regulatory process (post-driver education) to a process that occurs through the driver's lifespan.

Driver Education Deserts

- Define and identify driver education deserts in Washington State.
- Continue appropriations to develop, maintain, and deliver traffic safety learning experiences at the DOL.

Driver Education Deserts, cont.

- Prioritize access to driver education within the current requirements.
 - Increase offerings of traffic safety programs in public high schools.
 - Fund a program to support driver education in high schools.
 - Investigate traffic safety education program alternative pathway through Career and Technical Education (CTE) and life skills.
 - Pilot traffic safety education in driver education deserts.
 - Partner with driver training schools to offer traffic safety courses in rural and underserved areas.

Alternative Pathways

- Align OSPI and DOL requirements for driver instructors.
 - Create a competency-based driver instructor licensure system.
 - Non-competency-based alternative (DOL and OSPI alignment).
 - Program Structure
 - Education Requirements
 - Professional Development
 - Training Hours
 - Assessment
 - Auditing
- Implement a comprehensive traffic safety education program for driver instructors.
- DOL creates and teaches an educational driver instructor course.
- Driver instructor course is taught by willing vocational and higher education partners.

Diverse Drivers Education Program

- Evaluate effectiveness of courses during pilot phase.
- Transition comprehensive traffic safety program for driver instructors from pilot to an established program.
- Allocate funding to make program content accessible and available.