



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

EOT

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REGISTRAR

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Dear High School Principal:

On January 3, 2007, *An Act Further Regulating Driver Education and Junior Operator Licenses* was passed into law as Chapter 428 of the Acts of 2006. The law is an important step in strengthening driver's education and Junior Operator License (JOL) requirements, as well as increasing operating restrictions and penalties for junior operators in Massachusetts. The intent of the law is to ensure that every junior operator licensed in Massachusetts has received the proper training and experience to safely and responsibly operate a motor vehicle, and to prevent crashes by providing significant penalties for those individuals who speed or ignore the restrictions on their new licenses.

The law contains sections that require the Registrar to create and develop regulations for the operation of driving schools and to develop and implement a standardized driver education curriculum for driver education in both public and private schools. Each course must also have a standard final exam. The new driver education rules go into effect September 1, 2007. The law increases the required hours of behind-the-wheel instruction provided in driver education from 6 hours to 12 hours and requires parents/guardians to attend two hours of instruction so they understand how to teach their teens to drive and the rules governing junior operators. The newly proposed regulations and driver education curriculum have been developed and are posted on the RMV website at www.mass.gov/rmv under the heading Teens and Parents.

Please note that under the new law:

- Students who obtain a learner's permit on or after September 1, 2007 will be required to meet the new driver's education requirements. These students will be required to complete 40 hours of supervised driving (increased from 12 hours) with a parent or guardian; or 30 hours of supervised driving if the applicant has successfully completed a driver skills development program (advanced driver training.)
- Students who obtain a learner's permit prior to September 1, 2007 will be subject to the present driver's education requirements and will not have to complete 40 hours of supervised driving with a parent or guardian.
- Students who have completed the classroom portion of driver's education prior to September 1, 2007, but obtain a learner's permit on or after September 1, 2007, will not be required to meet the new classroom requirements but will be required to complete 12 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction and 40 hours of supervised driving with a parent; or 30 hours if they have successfully completed advanced driver training. (*Note: Students can not begin classroom instruction prior to age 15 years 9 months*).