



# **Street Wise Driving Academy**

Student & Parent Handbook



# Street Wise Driving Academy Student & Parent Handbook

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## To Students

Welcome to Street Wise. This handbook will provide information about our program and serve to bridge the gap between you, the classroom, the in-car instruction and your parent/guardian in order to provide you with a positive learning experience.

It is likely you have a keen interest in the many benefits a driver's license offers. Be aware this course is not designed to merely help you obtain a license. Rather it is our goal to help you to acquire a set of low risk driving behaviors that will serve you for a lifetime of crash-free driving.

This course cannot guarantee that you will be a good driver. Your personality, emotions, responsibility, attitudes and perceptions play a vital role in the type of driver you will become. It is our job to help you acquire accurate perceptual and cognitive skills and the physical and social skills necessary for you to become a conscientious, productive, cooperative low risk driver. Your commitment to excellence will directly affect your level of success.

## To Parents/Guardians

Welcome to Street Wise. This handbook has been designed with you in mind. Your son/daughter, the classroom instructor, the in-car instructor and you will be close partners during this course. We want this time to be a positive and productive experience for your child, one that will last a lifetime.

**For the best possible outcome it is recommended the new driver should start practice driving at 15 ½. When not practice driving the new driver should actively observe from the front seat without any screen distractions such as cell phone or ear buds with music.**

The increasing complexity on today's roadways requires an increase in the driving skills of motorists, each of whom shares in the responsibility to handle vehicles safely. Parents of teenagers enrolled in driver training want to assist their children in perfecting the mental, social, and physical driving skills they are learning. This can be difficult if the parent is not familiar with program policies, risk reduction concepts, appropriate in-car procedures, or the newest New Hampshire state driving laws.

This pamphlet outlines some components of our DE Program.  
In it you will find:

- A thorough overview of the Street Wise Driver Education course
- Answers to frequently asked questions about our program policies
- Information to help you grow a low risk driver in our high risk world

A successful driver education experience is a cooperative partnership of student, their parents, and teachers. You can assist them by becoming involved in your teenager's learning experience. Talk about and support the program, provide practice driving time at home and encourage your son/daughter to develop the skills, attitudes, and habits that will make him/her a low risk driver. You are not expected to replace the DE teacher but rather to support, encourage, supplement, and assist in developing a low risk driver.

## **Our Mission Statement**

The mission of Street Wise is to provide your daughter/son the opportunity to develop the knowledge, perceptions, attitudes, and motor skills necessary to achieve low risk driving behaviors that will serve them for a lifetime of crash-free driving.

## **Curriculum Foundation and Framework**

On the following pages you will find the foundation, framework and structure of our traffic safety education program. Our curriculum is based on the program standards as set forth by The National Institute for Driver Behavior, a nationally recognized leader in traffic safety education.

# **10 Good Driving Habits That Can Eliminate Millions Of Crashes**

by Professor Frederik R. Mottola

## **1. Establish Driver-Vehicle Readiness**

- Driver fitness: mental and physical
- Rear in seating position
- Safety belts on, head restraints up
- Doors locked, windows up
- Headlights on during daytime

## **2. See Path Before Putting the Car in Motion**

- See that the targeting path you intend to use is clear
- Turn head in direction of intended movement before turning steering wheel

## **3. Keep the Car in Balance**

- Make smooth and effective starts, stops, and steering actions
- Use transition pegs for effective transfer of braking, acceleration, and steering forces

## **4. Use Reference Points**

- Know within 3-6" where your car is positioned to the roadway
- Know where the car's sides and front are in relation to intersections

## **5. Do the Zone Control LOS-POT Searching Dance**

- Search to the target area
- Evaluate targeting path for LOS-POT (Line-Of-Sight, Path-Of-Travel) blockage
- Detect LOS-POT blockage
- Check other related zones
- Re-evaluate LOS-POT at 4-second danger zone

## **6. Turn Decisions into Zone Control Actions Control Actions**

- Solve LOS-POT blockage while 12-15 seconds away
- Get the best: speed control, lane positioning, and communication
- Be prepared to make adjustments when you are 4 seconds away
- Know your stopping distance and your point-of-no-return

## **7. Control the Intersection**

- Identify LOS blockage
- Check for clear left, front and right zones before entering
- With a red light, or stopped traffic, reduce speed to time your arrival into an open zone

## **8. Get Rear Zone Control**

- When your foot goes on the brake, check the rearview mirror
- Before moving to either side, check mirror and blind spot
- When backing, check all mirrors continuously

## **9. Get Control with a Vehicle in Front**

- When approaching a vehicle, close in gradually
- When traveling at same speed, keep 4 seconds following time
- When stopped behind a vehicle, see its rear tires touching road

## **10. Interact Courteously with Others**

- Empower yourself and reduce stress by being courteous, rather than competitive, while driving
- Send and receive communications in a timely manner

## **Issues That Interfere with Driver Fitness**

1. Alcohol & other drugs
2. Fatigue
3. Emotions
4. Personality
5. Distractions
6. Stress/anxiety
7. Lack of practice



# Structure of Our Program:

## Classroom to In-car Flow Chart

### Classroom Modules

#### Module 1

Introduction to course, The HTS, Habit development needs, Expectations after getting license, Getting ready to drive, Starting engine, Orientation to controls, Moving and stopping smoothly, On-target, Off-target, Vision and driving, Use of central and fringe vision, Driver-vehicle readiness, See path before gas →

#### Module 2

Signs, Symbols and pavement markings, Reference point discoveries – Pt. 1, Reading instruments and gauges, Reference points discoveries – Pt. 2, Entering & crossing traffic flows, Precision turns, Securing and exiting the vehicle, Use reference points, Keep the car in balance →

#### Module 3

Basics, Speed rule maximum limits, Yielding the right of way, Risk management, Risk vs. gain, Accumulation of risk factors, Line of sight, Path of travel (LOS-POT), Search to target area, Tracking in curves, Intro to backing, Targeting, Turnabout, Roundabouts/traffic circles, U-Turns →

### In-car Lessons

Approach a vehicle aware, Have key in hand, Head restraint adjusted, Butt in seat, Safety belts on, Windows up, Doors locked, Headlights on during day, Use of brake, Use of acceleration, Use of shift, Use of steering wheel, Use of central vision, Use of fringe vision, Driving for targets, Recovery of steering, Turn head before steering ↩

Use of reference points for turns, Side position, Forward position, Use of signal lights, Legal stops, Smooth stops, Target usage for turns, Search intersection's LFR, Look into turns before steering, Steering and steering recovery, Transition peg use ↩

Targeting through curves, Searching to target area, Evaluating target area, Evaluating target path, Identifying LOS's, Identifying POTs, Target usage while backing, Vision usage while backing, Steering while backing, Reference points for backing, Use of pivot point, Intersection turnabouts ↩

## Classroom Modules

### Module 4

Perceptual skill development, Searching target area to target area, Judging space in seconds, Three search ranges, Introduction to zone control system, Restraint systems, Forward/angle/hill parking, Detect LOS-POT blockage, Check other related zones

### Module 5

Communications options, Identifying 4-second danger zone, Approaching intersections, Highway-rail grade crossings, Rear zone control, Stopping in traffic, Re-evaluate LOS-POT at 4-second danger zone, Control the intersection, Get rear zone control

## In-car Lessons

Evaluate LOS-POT – target area, State if target is open closed, Evaluate targeting path, Respond to conditions, Search LOS-POT 15 sec. range, Re-evaluate 4-sec danger zone central vision LOS-POT, Fringe vision monitoring, Judging distance in seconds, Identifying LOS-POT in front, Identifying LOS-POT left/right, Identifying closed front zones, Identifying closed side zones, Know/apply ABC's, Know/apply speed control, Know/apply lane position, Angle parking, Parking on a hill

Sending and receiving comm., See intersections target area, Evaluating rear zone, Select best path of travel (POT), Searching LFR – 45 & 90, Locate and apply PONR, Stop stagger/legal/safety, See tires, Delay moving 2 seconds, Aware and control of rear zone, See “Sand Barrels” to rear, Use mirrors, Check mirror's blind spots, Recognize rear zone conditions, Control of rear zone, Time arrival into open zone, Begins braking without delay

### Comprehensive Progress Report

Classroom Modules

Module 6

Traffic lights: timing and/or turning,  
Using the ABCs of zone control, Lane  
changes with precision, Backing into  
perpendicular space, Alcohol and other  
drugs, Fatigue and sleep deprivation,  
Turn decisions into zone control actions,  
Interact courteously with others

Module 7

Signs, signals and markings review,  
Managing high risk situations, Approaching  
curves and hill crests, Following time and  
space, Practice commentary driving,  
Get control with a vehicle in front,  
Approaching vehicles gradually, Keep  
4 seconds of following time, Stop to see  
rear tires touching road

Module 8

Timing side zones, Leaving traffic  
flows – hill-stops and starts, Parallel  
parking, Winter driving techniques,  
Skid avoidance and vehicle control,

Review 10 driving habits

In-car Lessons

See red lights as closed zones, Adjust  
speed to arrive with open zone, Search  
intersection 45 degrees, Left turn at  
green – 4 checks, Effective use of ABC's,  
Evaluate need for lane change, Move  
by lane positions, Time arrival for open  
zones, Key steps for backing into space

Respond to signs, signals, See warning  
signs as cues – check rear/LOS-POT/  
escape path, Respond to markings, Right  
of way laws, See/respond curves in target  
areas, Evaluate traction envelope & left/  
right zones, Best lane positions, Look  
into curves, Use brakes & gas effectively,  
Evaluate POT's at hill crests, Hill crest lane  
position, Keep four seconds of time, Adjust  
Closure Rate to front, Use commentary

Find fixed side zone changes, Find moving  
side zone changes, Time arrival into open  
zone, Get best speed control, Check rear  
zone before leaving traffic flow, Use of  
signals, Parallel parking

## Classroom Modules

### Module 9

Night driving conditions, Passing and being passed, Handling vehicle malfunctions and emergencies, Interacting with other vehicle types, Environmental issues, Preventive maintenance, Drowsy driving, Emotions and road rage



### Module 10

Limited access highways, Practice and review all in-car concepts, Licensing requirements, Traffic stops



## In-car Lessons

Night driving, Look for pedestrians at high-risk locations, Tailgater type, Select passing location, Adjust time/space, Simulated passing: coping with distractions



Limited access highways, Entering, Sharing the road, Exiting, Passing



### Comprehensive In-car Exam:

10 good driving habits, Maneuvers



## **General Information**

### **Course Fee**

The cost of the course is \$735 and should be paid prior to attending the first class session. Make checks payable to Street Wise Driving Academy or pay online via our online payment center.

### **Registration**

Students may pick up an application packet at the JSRHS main office or download an application/apply online via the Street Wise website. Please fill out the application accurately.

### **Special Needs**

If a student has a learning problem, physical handicap, health issues, or other concerns that might affect his/her progress, this information should be communicated to the teacher immediately. Health/medical forms are provided at the time of enrollment to note specific situation to inform the instructor. Parents should contact the instructor early in the course to note special situations.

### **Foreign Exchange Students**

It has become increasingly difficult for exchange students to take DE classes. When a foreign exchange student requests enrollment in our DE program, the following requirements apply:

- The foreign exchange student's Visa must allow the student to drive in the United States. (Written proof required)
- The sponsoring program's rules and regulations must allow the exchange student to drive in the United States. (Written proof required)
- The host family will need to show automobile insurance that will provide coverage for the exchange student. (Written proof required)
- The host family will need to agree to provide sufficient driving experience for the exchange student in order to successfully complete the DE course. (Written proof required)

- The enrollment of a foreign exchange student should not displace another student who would have turned 16 years of age during that specific DE class.

## **Home Schooled Student**

Home schooled students follow the same enrollment procedures as stated above. Inform the classroom instructor during the enrollment period when special needs are to be considered.

## **Transfer Students Within New Hampshire State**

A transfer student coming to our program from another program within the State of New Hampshire must pay the full enrollment fee.

## **Mandatory Parent Night**

Scheduled generally 6-7:30 pm after the students first class, this session is specifically scheduled for parents and their new driver. This is a mandatory class session for all registered student's parents. During this time you will be introduced to the program and our instructors. You will become familiar with the newest NH traffic laws including graduated licensing, home practice tips on reinforcing what was taught behind the wheel with the instructor. Hand position on the steering wheel, organized search pattern, line of sight and path of travel and other important key concepts. An insurance representative will talk briefly about insurance options that can be discussed with your carrier.

## **Integrated Classroom and In-car Instruction**

This DE course is a 3-phase program: classroom, in-car and home-practice in the family vehicle. Our course is designed and structured with student mastery in mind. The New Hampshire Driver Risk Prevention Curriculum contains 11 modules/units to cover within the 30-hour classroom phase. In most instances, three to four days are scheduled for each module with one day is set aside for testing that module. The modules are as follows:

- Module 1: Uniting Driver & Vehicle
- Module 2: Knowing Where You Are
- Module 3: You Are in Control
- Module 4: Searching for LOS-POT
- Module 5: You Control The Intersection
- Module 6: Space Management
- Module 6-D: The Deadly D's – Drinking, Drugs and Drowsy Driving
- Module 7: Interacting With Others
- Module 8: Practicing Your Skills
- Module 9: Managing Driver Vehicle and Environmental Risks
- Module 10: Putting It All Together

Module concepts are first introduced and practiced in the classroom, then applied to an in-car lesson and finally put into practice in the family vehicle. As students progress through the modules concepts become more complex, building on and adding to previously learned concepts. Attendance is crucial to student success.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend each classroom session may result in failure of the course.

## **Absences**

Upon the first day of returning from an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to confer with the teacher to determine the work that need to be made up. In addition to making up the daily work and extra DE projects which must be completed for each day (hour) of absence up to 4 hours.

## **3-Ring Binder or Similar Organization System**

Increased organization usually leads to increased success at school, home and work. One of the requirements for successful completion of DE is daily use of a 3-ring binder or similar organization system. The 3-ring binder should be at least a one inch binder. Binders containing pockets on the front and/or back may have some advantage. The binder/system is to be in order by the second class meeting!

## **Student Text Books**

Students will be issued a textbook and New Hampshire Driver Manual. With the exception of the New Hampshire Driver Manual, students may not outline, highlight, or write in their texts. The New Hampshire Driver Manual is theirs to keep. This manual is distributed to students during the first class session. It is a summary of the laws and rules that apply to all persons who drive a vehicle in New Hampshire State. Throughout the course, students will be required to read specific sections to parallel other course work. Students are expected to read, comprehend and indicate gained knowledge from the manual on tests, discussions, and in their driving performances.



## **Course Work**

Each student will receive a schedule on the first day of class. While recognizing individual differences, students are required to complete 100 percent of all course work. Students are expected to complete all home assignments and assigned readings. Please read and reread until new terms/concepts are understood.

## **Entry Exams**

During the first 15 minutes of most classroom sessions students will complete an entry exam. These exams are based on concepts and activities from the lesson presented the previous day and on homework assignments. Studies show that students learn best when they are given the opportunity to forget and recall information. For this reason it is vital that the student attend each classroom session and complete each homework assignment as scheduled on the course syllabus.

## **Exit Exams**

At the conclusion of each module a competency test is given to assess student achievement over specific concepts from the texts, class discussions and activities, the New Hampshire Driver Manual, videos, Power Point presentations and overhead transparencies. This test is a combination of multiple choice and short answer essay questions. 80% minimum competency is required to pass any one test. Students receiving less than 80% on any one test will need to reread, restudy and retake the exam. All competency tests must be passed in order to complete this course. "Pop" quizzes may be used throughout the course to determine student achievement.

## Projects

Students will complete 20 projects:

1. Practicing inside and outside vehicle checks, pre-ignition checklist
2. Identify, locate and determine fluid levels, colors, as well as identification of registration and other important information with the family car
3. NH rules/laws, fine schedule and demerit point system
4. Bring a notebook/binder and use it to hold your class papers.
5. Vehicle familiarization
6. Problem signs
7. Speed changes
8. Drug warning and precautions for over-the-counter drugs
9. Task analysis, basic driving maneuvers
10. New Hampshire driver ed. question packet
11. Plan a trip
12. Have a conversation with parents about organ donation
13. Tire change conversation, check out tire website, look at the side wall guide, check out Street Wise website, determine the age of your car's tires, write a summary of what you've learned viewing the websites
14. Read and summarize safe night driving tips
15. Read and summarize tips on emergency actions or emergency maneuvers important for emergency skill development
16. Motorcycle safety
17. Railroad safety
18. Winter driving
19. Car safety features
20. Trucks, pedestrian and other road users; Move over summary; Being pulled over summary

## Behind-the-Wheel Instruction

This phase of the course is designed to provide the student with actual driving experience for those skills he/she mastered in the classroom phase.

Our course requires they spend 10 hours behind-the-wheel. In-car lesson requires students to participate as a driver (behind-the-wheel) and as an active observer/passenger.

Students must complete the required classroom assignments prior to each driving lesson. The student will be expected to attend the scheduled lesson or notify their DE instructor 24 hours in advance and reschedule a new drive time.

## **No Show & Late Fees**

Instructors plan on driving with two or three students during a scheduled driving session. It is not advisable for instructors to drive with only one student nor is it generally our school policy to do so. Therefore, it is a major inconvenience when students do not arrive for their scheduled drive. Students who fail to show up for a scheduled drive or fail to notify an instructor 24 hours prior to an absence will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee and will be required to pay that fee before the next scheduled drive.

## **Course Completion Certificate**

Upon successful completion of classroom and in-car instruction, the student will receive a certificate of completion from the DE instructor.

One hundred percent of the classroom assignments, tests, and projects must be completed with a 80% or better prior to the last scheduled day of class. (Unless drive lessons are scheduled to be completed after the last scheduled day of class.)

## **Student Conduct**

Appropriate sets of both attitude and manners, are necessary. (This is probably the most important requirement of the course.) Contained therein should be concern of self-discipline, good work habits, courtesy to others, respect for authority, and a positive outlook. Responsibility plays an important role in this course. Irresponsible people do not belong on our roadways.

Each student will be advised orally and in writing at the beginning of class about these expectations. Whether a student meets the expectations will be strictly his/her decision. Additionally, each student driver must be prepared to accept the responsibilities and consequences for that choice.

## **Alcohol & Other Drugs**

The use of alcohol or other drugs is forbidden by state law. Additionally, students who come to class after consuming alcohol or other drugs are in violation of state law. Any student reporting to a DE session who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs will be immediately removed from the class and referred to the local and state police.

## **Removal from the Driver Education Program**

Students will be dropped from our DE program with a “fail” grade for any of the following:

1. Excessive tardiness
2. Excessive absences → refer to contract
3. Failure to complete assigned work
4. Cheating (whether sharing or receiving answers)
5. Being under the influence of alcohol or any other illegal drugs during any of the instructional phases
6. Misuse of driver education equipment
7. Repeated and willful violation of traffic laws

## **Parents’/Guardians’ Can Help**

Take an early interest in the progress of your son/daughter. Please impress upon your student driver that the illegal use of a vehicle carries severe consequences. When such violations are observed, the student will be removed from the DE course. The New Hampshire State Police, the DMV, and DE instructors all recognize the importance of practical driving opportunities for your student driver to practice.

Talk with your teen driver about their progress in both the classroom and the in-car phases throughout the course. There are several ways to help your teen driver during and beyond the course:

1. Set a good example when you drive
2. Keep your student accountable for assigned course work and attendance and ask for a review of every in-car lesson
3. Provide a vehicle for practice sessions

4. Plan each home practice session based on the suggestions sent home by the teacher
5. Reinforce the skills taught by the Driver Education teacher (if differences come up please contact the instructor for clarification)
6. Make sure the student is familiar with all controls and safety devices in each of the family vehicles
7. Remain calm as a soft, steady voice is most helpful
8. Explain: Do not assume your teenager knows what you want them to do
9. Give all directions clearly, calmly and well in advance of the maneuver
10. Be ready to assist with verbal steering guidance as well as guidance well in advance of trouble
11. While riding remember you are the responsible driver of the car so that you are always scanning the driving scene and ready to react to any driving situation
12. Expect your students to make mistakes, separate physical errors (turning the wheel too soon) from mental errors, look for positive situations to make positive compliments

After the student has completed the course:

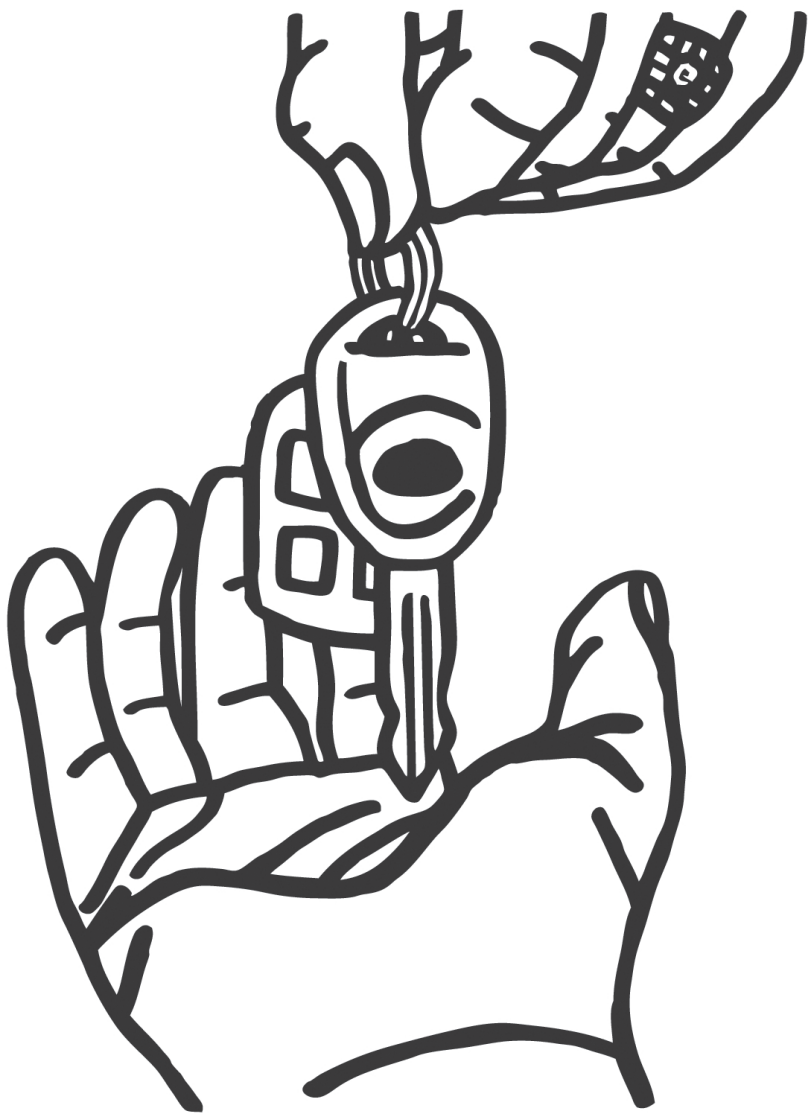
1. Recognize that your teen has developed beginning level skills
2. Provide a minimum of 50-100 hours of supervised driving practice prior to and/or after securing the New Hampshire State Driver's License
3. Take your teen to obtain a license only when you feel the time is right
4. Arrange for the teenager's use of the family (or his/her) automobile and the limitation of its use through the use of a contract agreement
5. Set ground rules in order to provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate maturity and responsibility:
  - Require that your teen and all passengers use seat belts
  - Insist that your teen controls the speed of the vehicle
  - Prohibit your teen from using illegal substances
  - Require your teen to observe curfews
  - Know your teenager's friends and their driving habits

## **The Top 11 Driving Errors**

1. Not attending to the path of travel
2. Driving five or more mph too fast for conditions
3. Driving too fast through a curve
4. Inadequate search at an intersection and thus pulled in front of cross traffic
5. Involved lack of attention at an intersection and being struck by another driver
6. Improper evasive action – quick turn not executed properly
7. Failed to maintain visual lead
8. Failed to see action developing at side of the roadway
9. Following too closely
10. Willfully taking right-of-way
11. Distracted

Source: Transportation Research Board 1999

**TAILGATING IS A LEADING CAUSE OF COLLISIONS,  
KEEP FOUR SECONDS OF FOLLOWING SPACE**



If further clarification is needed, please contact:

Earl Russell

603.540.4056    [streetwisedrivingacademy.org](http://streetwisedrivingacademy.org)

Drive as  
if your life  
depended  
on it.

