



English Language Learners

Guidance for Driver Education Instruction

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

When providing classroom instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs), contact your schools English Learner Program to learn more about individual student needs to ensure support is provided. For classroom instruction, you can always:

- Provide any accommodation as needed
- Use an interpreter if/when needed

Contact [English Language Learner Program and Title III](#) for further assistance at (208) 332-6905.

IN-CAR INSTRUCTION

Depending on the language barrier, the district/school may need to provide an interpreter for the student. If the student does understand English enough for in-car instruction, an interpreter may only be needed for feedback and instruction on what skills the student needs to work on. This is all dependent on the individual student's needs. Students should know basic commands in English or the driver education instructor could learn basic commands in the student's native language.

Using an Interpreter

- Before in-car instruction begins, the instructor will explain the route and objectives of the first lesson. The interpreter will relay the information to the student and confirm the student understands the in-car instructions. The student repeats instructions back prior to beginning the maneuver/lesson.
- During in-car instruction, the interpreter will sit in the backseat of vehicle.
- During in-car instruction, the interpreter does not repeat everything the driver education instructor is facilitating, but only instruction notifications such as stop, pull over, left, right, slow down, speed up, etc.
- Once the lesson is complete, stop the vehicle and provide new instructions for the student. The interpreter relays the information to the student and confirms the student

understands the in-car instructions. The student repeats the instructions back prior to beginning the maneuver/lesson. Proceed until the in-car objective/lesson is complete.

- At the end of the drive, provide the student feedback and instruction on what skills the student needs to work on. The interpreter will relay the information and confirm with the student that they understand.

Tips

- Before in-car instruction begins, speak with the student and interpreter about how instruction will be communicated and expectations.
- During the first lesson, set the student up for success by starting the drive in a parking lot.
- Instructors may need to spend extra time with students to ensure they understand the plan with their drives.
- If the driver education instructor has a concern or needs to speak with the student, ask the student to pull over or park in a safe location before communicating with the student.
- Provide a map of the drive and mark where the student will be for each skill/maneuver. Each map should have an explanation of what the student will be doing.
- Do not let the interpreter distract the student.
- Let the student guide the instruction, they know what and how they learn best.
- When giving instructions, feedback, etc., make sure to talk to the student, not the interpreter. The interpreter is a passive part of the interaction, and the main focus is on the student.

PRE-DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE

For students who may not be proficient in English, districts/schools can setup a Pre-Driver Education Course. This can take place in a study skills class or another class that best fits the district/school. This course could teach vocabulary for driving and assist students on how to navigate the bureaucratic process of obtaining a permit and driver's license such as:

- Assist in applying for a social security card, birth certificate, etc. for students who do not have one
- Explain the documents needed to obtain permit/driver's license
- Describe each step of the driver education program from start to finish

KNOWLEDGE TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

There are accommodations available for the Knowledge Test for Driver's License, but it is dependent on local DMV's office availability. The accommodations include:

- Spanish version
- "Modified" English and Spanish version – this has the same questions in a simplified language.
- Some DMV offices may be able to accommodate having the test taken in an isolated room away from distractions
- Some DMV offices may be able to have a member of the staff read the test to them verbatim with no further explanation (this is the only time we would allow the test to be read to someone)

To set up any accommodations, families/students will need to contact their local DMV or call the Driver's License Unit at 208-334-8736 option 3.

SKILLS TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

Passengers are not allowed during the skills test with exceptions for the individuals who need an interpreter. These specific passengers must be 18 years of age or older with valid identification and must sign the liability waiver.

To set up any accommodations, families/students will need to contact their local DMV or call the Driver's License Unit at 208-334-8736 option 3.