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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Administrators
Nonpublic School Administrators
Charter School Administrators

From: Amy Cox, Director of Career and Technical Education

Date: June 11, 2021

Re: Updated Guidance on Driver and Traffic Safety Education

Background

On August 26, 2020, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) issued the Updated Guidance on Driver and Traffic Safety Education (DTSE) in Response to COVID-19 giving DTSE programs the option of allowing students to complete the 24 hours of laboratory (in-vehicle) instruction under the supervision of a parent/guardian holding a valid New York State driver's license. An [FAQ](#) to clarify information in this guidance was posted on October 20, 2020.

Recommendations for Schools

Due to evolving health and safety guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) related to COVID-19, the NYSED will continue to offer DTSE programs flexibility for laboratory instruction. Laboratory instruction with appropriately certified instructors may resume consistent with DTSE guidelines and a school district's/BOCES/college's reopening policy, so long as programs consult with their local departments of health (LDOH) to determine if such instruction can be conducted in alignment with state and local health and safety guidelines. Per NYSED DTSE guidelines, all in-vehicle instruction must maintain a minimum of two (2) students per vehicle during instruction. Programs unable to meet state and local health and safety guidelines and the NYSED DTSE guidelines' requirement of a minimum of two (2) students in the vehicle during instruction will be allowed to continue to utilize the parent/guardian option to complete laboratory instruction. Please note that all students utilizing the parent/guardian option to complete laboratory instruction must be 16 years old and hold a valid NYS Class D Operator Permit.

Additional Considerations

- Driving schools can be utilized to complete the laboratory instruction as long as the instruction aligns with state and local health and safety guidelines and NYSED DTSE guidelines concerning a minimum of two (2) students in the vehicle during instruction.

- All programs choosing to utilize a driving school will need to submit a [DE-1A](#) with all necessary documentation to NYSED in order to update the school's program files.
- Any programs previously utilizing a driving school that intend to transition back to in-person, laboratory instruction will need to submit a [DE-1A](#) identifying how instruction will be implemented and provide appropriate MV-283 credentials for classroom teachers providing laboratory instruction.
- All health and safety procedures need to align with LDOH guidelines. All questions regarding distancing, PPE, and cleaning procedures should be directed to LDOH.

Additional questions or concerns may be directed to EMSCDRVED@nysed.gov.