



DTSE JOURNAL

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Driver's Ed, Driver Training Programs, and Adaptive Driver Services: What Is The Difference Between These Three Programs?

In New York State (NYS) there are two government programs that educate individuals on driving and driving related content: Driver & Traffic Safety Education (DTSE), & Driver Training Programs. In addition to these two programs there is a specialized service that also addresses driving related needs, which is known as the ACCES-VR's Driver Evaluation and Training

Service. What is the difference between these three programs/services, and which one is right for you?

Driver & Traffic Safety Education:

Driver & Traffic Safety Education (DTSE) or more casually, "Driver Ed" refers to a program designed to educate high school students on how

to drive and how to become a safer driving citizen. The program is administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED); however, it culminates in a course completion certificate (MV-285) issued by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This cross agency design is the product of Vehicle and Traffic Safety Law 507 where it states, "A class

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NYSDTSEA CONFERENCE

This year's New York State Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association (NYSDTSEA) conference will be held on March 16th at the Turning Stone Conference Center in Verona, New York. This conference is a great way for teachers to earn professional development hours while being exposed to the latest Driver & Traffic Safety Education (DTSE) curricular developments, products, philosophies, and political agendas related to DTSE. The NYSDTSEA Web site is located at www.nysdtsea.org and the NYSDTSEA conference Web page is located at:

<http://nysdtsea-frontview.weebly.com/conf-registration-p-42.html>.

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NYSED Office for Driver & Traffic Safety Education
[*www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/de/*](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/de/)

Different Driver Training Programs for Different People

NYSED and the DMV: A Partnership Approach to Driver Education

D or class M license, whichever is appropriate, may be issued to a minor seventeen years of age who has successfully completed a driver education course approved by the state education department and the commissioner in a high school or college.” It is interesting to think that the way V&T Law 507 was written became the glue that cemented the relationship between the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

This program requires a minimum of 24 hours of classroom lecture and 24 hours of behind the wheel instruction for a total of 48 hours. Only a New York State school, college or BOCES may offer this program. DTSE teachers must hold a NYS K-12 or 7-12 teaching certificate, a valid driver’s license, and an MV-283 credential which is at-

tained by successful completion of an approved 12 credit pre-service Driver Education Teacher program at one of five approved colleges. High school programs culminate in the issuance of the MV-285 form (casually referred to as the Blue Card). This card affords the student to be offered three privileges:



1. a potential (dependant on insurance company participation) reduction in insurance,
2. the ability to schedule a driving test (leading to a NYS driver’s license),
3. and a senior license once the card holder turns 17 years of age.

An Important Note:

School districts that offer an approved Driver & Safety Education course to their students are responsible for providing those services to students with disabilities under equal access provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Schools may not deny an otherwise qualified student with a disability access to Driver & Traffic Safety Education solely because reasonable accommodations are necessary.

Driver Training Programs:

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) Bureau of Driver Training Programs licenses driving schools and certifies driving school instructors (MV-524 card holders). These driving schools and driving school instructors are then

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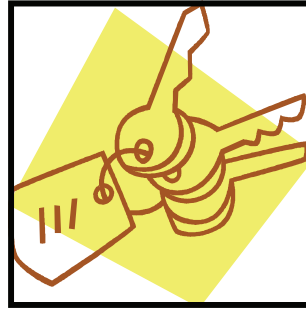
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approved to deliver driving lessons. Many are also approved to teach the DMV's Pre-licensing Course, which is required for all new motorists who do not complete an approved DTSE course. Furthermore, some commercial driving schools and driving school instructors may also provide the Point & Insurance Reduction Program (also known as PIRP), and/or the Defensive Driving Course.

Driving lessons are strictly avocational: they are learning for learning's sake. The PIR course affords the successful completer with a reduction of points on their license. The Five Hour Pre-licensing course is a requirement for anyone wishing to schedule a road test.

The Bureau of Driver Training Programs is afforded the positional authority via DMV Com-

missioner's Regulations, to exercise approval of Driver Ed. teachers (MV-283 card holders). Because DTSE teachers are working in the capacity of the New York State Education Department's DTSE program, the two agencies (DMV & NYSED) have developed a jointly owned DTSE teacher approval process, which further cements the DMV/NYSED partnership in the Driver Education program. Each agency is sovereign over each DTSE Teacher's (MV-283 card holder's) credentials in part. The DMV holds DTSE Teachers responsible for appropriate driving credentials (i.e. driver's license and driving record), while the State Education Department holds DTSE teachers responsible for pedagogical credentials (i.e. college courses in DTSE instruction and an appropriate NYS teacher certification).



ACCES-VR's Driver Evaluation and Training Service:

The NYSED Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) offers certain vocational rehabilitation services which may be needed by a person with a disability to achieve employment. ACCES-VR should not be confused with the Driver & Traffic Safety Education program mentioned above which must provide equal access and reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities (see "An Important Note:" section above). Rather, ACCES-VR serves eligible working age individuals seeking employment who, as a result of disability, require vocational rehabilitation services

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ACCES-VR
 Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational

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New York State Cares About All Drivers

ACCES: Uniting Key Adult Service Areas

- ***Vocational Rehabilitation***
- ***Adult Education Programs and Policy***
- ***Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision***

Adult Vocational Rehabilitation Services

[*www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/*](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/)

to help them achieve employment. One such service is Driver Evaluation and Training. ACCES-VR may be an option for specific students who qualify. Let's take a look at the program.

ACCES-VR is a vocational rehabilitation (VR) program that provides services and supports leading to competitive employment for individuals with significant disabilities. Driver evaluation and training are among a range of employment services ACCES-VR may provide to VR eligible individuals who have formally

established a specific employment goal with ACCES-VR and have developed an individualized plan for employment (IPE) to achieve that goal. Driver evaluation and training must be clearly connected to the achievement of the employment goal. Driver evaluation and training is a means by which ACCES-VR can work with an individual with a disability to determine if the individual can drive a vehicle, or, if not, what the needs are to be a passenger; and what type of vehicle will meet their needs. Driver evaluation and training services may be provided to eligi-

ble individuals with a transportation barrier to achieving their employment outcome. ACCES-VR's Driver Evaluation and Training policy is available via the links that appear below this article.

Although these three programs/services are often confused with each other you can see that they provide different services to different people. Now, the next time someone casually talks about "Driver's Education" you will be able ask them a very important question. "What exactly do you mean?"

NYSED Driver & Traffic Safety Education Link

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/de/>

ACCES-VR Driver Evaluation and Training Policy Link

http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/current_provider_information/vocational_rehabilitation/policies_procedures/0440_driver_evaluation_and_training/policy.htm

NYS Department of Motor Vehicles Driver Training Programs Forms

<http://www.dmv.ny.gov/driveschool.htm>

Teen Distracted Driving Summit

National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) is hosting its third annual Teen Distracted Driving Summit at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC on December 3, 2012. There will be a number of new resources and research to learn about. A new team of youth leaders from around the country will be able to address the issue of distracted driving.

As an attendee, you will have the opportunity to network with hundreds of industry leaders that are working to address distracted driving on the local, state, and national levels.

Youth teams were selected from around the country through an application proc-

ess in order to attend the 2012 Teen Distracted Driving Prevention Summit and lead year-long efforts in their communities. Following the Summit, these teams will develop, implement, and support distracted driving prevention efforts in their local communities and host a Teen Distracted Driving Prevention Summit in their state.



Did You Know?

Did you know that any approved Driver & Traffic Safety Education (DTSE) program which contracts with a commercial driving school must embed 13 DTSE requirements within their contract with the awarded driver training vendor? A list of these 13 requirements is available for download at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/de/Tools.html>.

Did you know that the Spring 2013 semester DE-1 and DE-1A forms are now available on the New York State Education Department Driver & Traffic Safety Education (NYSED DTSE) website? As always, please make sure you are filling out the most recent DE-1 form when applying for DTSE program approval at your school. When filing an amendment please use the most recent DE-1A form. To access the new Spring 2013 DE-1 and DE-1A forms, please visit:

www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/de/forms

**NYSED Office for
Driver & Traffic
Safety Education**

[www.p12.nysed.gov
/cte/de/forms](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/de/forms)

A Curriculum Development Project: Brought To You By the DERIC

***Distracted
Driving
Curriculum
Module***



***DERIC: Steering
Teenage Drivers
In a Safe
Direction***

In 2010, young drivers aged 16-20 represented 16% of all NYS licensed drivers involved in fatal and personal injury crashes due to driver attention or distraction. To address this public health issue, a driver inattention/distracted driving module will be developed by members of the Driver Education Research and Innovation Center (DERIC) Interagency Workgroup and a Driver Inattention/Distracted Driver subcommittee utilizing available evidence-based research, best practices, national traffic safety standards and industry accepted practices. The first meeting of the DERIC's Distracted Driver/Driver Inattention subcommittee took place at the School of Public Health on November 20, 2012. As work progresses on the module, the DERIC Project Manager, in cooperation with the New York State Education Department, will conduct five regional driver traffic and safety educational summits across New York State from January through August 2013. Summits will be held at local BOCES or approved program high schools and will provide an environment for sharing of information and up-to-date driver education resources from state agencies. Additionally, this forum will allow Driver and Traffic Safety Educators (DTSE) the opportunity to review the module as it is being developed and provide technical feedback which will be shared with the DERIC Interagency Workgroup and the Distracted Driving/Driver Inattention subcommittee. The DERIC is committed to fostering an open and continuing dialogue with DTSEs across the state to ensure the module developed can be seamlessly incorporated into the classroom setting.

Giving Spirit Shines Bright for Driver Education Program Devastated By Hurricane Sandy

We've all heard the stories about the devastating impact that Hurricane Sandy has had on many of our communities. It can even be disheartening when you turn on the TV and are bombarded with the tragic stories that can only be brought to us by Mother Nature; however, it is these moments that present the greatest opportunities for the human spirit to shine brightest and make turning on the TV, not so bad.

On October 28th, the Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences in Brooklyn, New York lost its Driver & Traffic Safety Education (DTSE) vehicle to Hurricane

Sandy. Complicating matters was the fact that cars simply were not available to be purchased in the New York City area in the wake of the hurricane's destruction. What was the program to do?

On November 6th, the DTSE teacher from Leon M. Goldstein reached out to the State Education Department's Driver & Traffic Safety Education Office to discuss their program's dilemma. The NYSED DTSE office sent out a message via the DTSE list serve and Monroe #1 BOCES offered to help. Thanks to the generous donation by Monroe #1 BOCES,

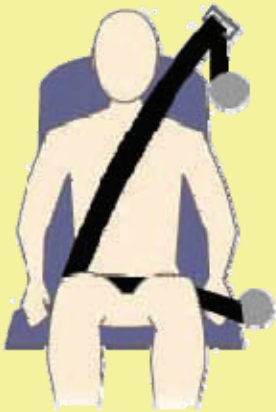
through the support of their District Superintendent and School Board, the Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences has a DTSE car once again. Their students will be able to complete their credit bearing DTSE course on time and become safer drivers for it.

Along with the tragedies that we see and hear about, we are often reminded of the resilience of the human spirit via the generous efforts of those who reach out to help those in need. Thank you to Monroe #1 BOCES. You are truly number one in your efforts to help kids!



BATTLE OF THE BELTS EVENT

Your Program Can Still Join The Battle Of The Belts!



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Reminder: You may still sign up for the “Battle of the Belts” promotion. In order to show our support for this extremely worthy cause, we have decided to run the article from September’s DTSE Journal once again.

The New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) in partnership with the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA), and the Ford Motor Company: Driving Skills for Life (DSFL) program are announcing a call for competitors in an exciting educational traffic safety initiative called the “Battle of the Belts”. The promotion is designed to raise the awareness of the importance of seat belt

use among high school age youth. The GTSC will provide support to any school or organization in New York State who wishes to host a “Battle of the Belts” (or similar) competition.

GTSC will be offering some great incentives to those who participate! Event organizers will be supplied with \$10 iTunes gift cards to use as prizes for the winners of their event(s).

To enroll in the program, each school or partner must fill out the online registration form located on the Young Driver Toolkit page

(safeny.ny.gov/SRO-Toolkit/advisor.html).

The form must be filled out by an organization or school advisor who will

serve as the liaison to GTSC. The advisor will be responsible for establishing a plan to conduct, promoting and administering a “Battle of the Belts” or similar type of event which promotes seat belt use. The advisor will also be responsible for providing a full list of participants in the program and a report on how prizes were disseminated to those participants.

There is no deadline for registration. GTSC will provide iTunes cards on a first come first served basis until the stock has been exhausted. Download the "How To" file to see how you can host a [Battle of the Belts Event](#) (pdf). Any questions may be directed to 518-486-1920 or at Chuck.Conroy@dmv.ny.gov.

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