



Georgia Department of Education

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*"Educating Georgia's Future"*

# **Implementation Guidelines for the Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA)**

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## **I. Introduction**

SB 100, signed into law on April 16, 2015, makes significant changes to the **Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act** (TAADRA) by eliminating the requirement for schools to certify that a minor's attendance pattern and discipline record permits him or her to have a Georgia learner's permit or driver's license. Effective July 1, 2015, schools are simply required to certify that a student is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school to be eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit. Students will no longer have their driver's license or learner's permit suspended for excessive unexcused absences or discipline infractions.

Minors who are enrolled in a home education program must provide proof that they are enrolled in a home education program that satisfies the reporting requirements of all state laws governing such program.

## **II. General Information**

- A. The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act applies to all minors who are at least 15 years of age and under the age of 18.
- B. When such a minor submits an application for a Georgia driver's license or instruction permit, the applicant must present proof that he or she satisfies one of the following conditions as specified in *O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22 (a.1)*:
- (1) Is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school;*
  - (2) Is enrolled in a home education program that satisfies the reporting requirements of all state laws governing such program.*
  - (3) Has received a high school diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, a special diploma, or a certificate of high school completion;*
  - (4) Has terminated his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a postsecondary school or is pursuing a general educational development (GED) diploma.*
- C. Local school districts are responsible for certifying that students enrolled in public schools within its district satisfy the requirements in B. (1) above. They will do this by using the *Certificate of School Enrollment* form which replaces the Certificate of Attendance.
- D. Local school districts are responsible for making the *Certificate of School Enrollment* form available to private schools in Georgia in which students living in the public school district are enrolled. The private schools will complete the forms. *The Technical College System of Georgia (formerly known as the Department of Technical and Adult Education) shall be responsible for students who withdraw from a public, private or home school to pursue a general educational development (GED) diploma.*

- E. After July 1, 2015, the electronic database for reporting TAADRA noncompliance will be deactivated because students will no longer have their driver's license or learner's permit suspended for excessive unexcused absences or discipline infractions. However, driver's license suspensions that occurred prior to July 1, 2015 will continue to be effective through the one-year suspension period.
- F. The Georgia Department of Education is responsible for certifying that students enrolled in home study programs satisfy the attendance requirements in B. (2) above.

### **III. Implementation Guidelines**

The Superintendent of each local school district should appoint one or more persons to serve as the TAADRA Coordinator. It will be the responsibility of the TAADRA Coordinator to:

1. Inform all schools for which the public school district has responsibility of the provisions of the law. This includes public schools and any private schools in Georgia that have students enrolled who reside in the local school district.
2. Inform all students and parents about the consequences for not complying with the TAADRA law by posting the information in Parent Handbooks and/or Student Codes of Conduct.
3. Design and implement local school district guidelines and procedures for completing, notarizing, and distributing the *Certificate of School Enrollment* to public and private school students.
4. Serve as the liaison between the local schools and the GaDOE with regard to all policy questions regarding the Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act.
5. After July 1, 2015 students will no longer have their driver's license or learner's permit suspended for excessive unexcused absences or discipline infractions. However, driver's license suspensions that occurred prior to July 1, 2015, will continue to be effective through the one-year suspension period.

### **IV. Certificate of School Enrollment**

1. Effective July 1, 2015, the *Certificate of School Enrollment* form must be used to certify that a student is eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit. The *Certificate of School Enrollment* replaces the *Certificate of Attendance* and the *Certificate of Eligibility for Restoration of Driving Privileges*.
2. Each student who applies for a driver's license or learner's permit must submit a *Certificate of School Enrollment* to the examining station. This form must be completed by a school official and notarized. This form serves as certification that the student is

enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school. The notarization itself attests to the fact that the certifying official is authorized to certify that the information is correct.

The *Certificate of School Enrollment* form can be downloaded from the [GaDOE TAADRA website](#).

3. When completing the *Certificate of School Enrollment*, **it is mandatory to use the student's full legal name.** Be careful to use the correct spelling and to enter the student's middle name if available.
4. It is recommended that each school set up a schedule for students to follow when requesting a *Certificate of School Enrollment*. Some examples of schedules that local districts say have worked well are: (a) students sign a request list in the office before school starts in the morning, then pick up the completed forms the next morning; (b) students go the designated office during their lunch period on a designated day of the week to get the forms - the office staff mobilizes to get these done as the students come; (c) secretary looks up student birthdays at the beginning of the month to see who will be turning 15 or 16 that month, then gets the forms ready ahead of time.
5. Schools may charge a fee for notarizing the form. This fee should be no more than what is commonly charged for notarizing a similar form in the community.
6. The *Certificate of School Enrollment* must be issued to any student who is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school.
7. The Georgia Department of Education is responsible for certifying that students enrolled in a home education program satisfy the reporting requirements of all state laws governing such program. An agreement has been reached with the Department of Driver Services (DDS) which allows homeschool students to bring a copy of their *Georgia Home Study Declaration of Intent* form to the driver's license office. If the Declaration of Intent form was submitted online using the Georgia Department of Education website, a digital signature will appear at the bottom of the form. The Declaration of Intent now serves as the *Certificate of School Enrollment* for students enrolled in a home education program that request a driver's license or learner's permit.
8. During the regular school year, the *Certificate of School Enrollment* is good for 30 days after the date it is notarized. During the summer months of June, July, and August, when most schools are not in session, the Department of Driver Services will accept Certificates of School Enrollment that are dated near the end of the school year (late May or early June).
9. A school cannot design its own *Certificate of School Enrollment* form. However, the school can use its student information system to design a report that will print all required information on the official form.

10. The *Certificate of School Enrollment* should not be issued to students who have graduated from high school, have earned a GED, or are enrolled in college or postsecondary school. Such students must furnish acceptable proof of their status to the Department of Driver Services.
11. It is required that students obtain a *Certificate of School Enrollment* when receiving a learner's permit, and obtain another *Certificate of School Enrollment* when receiving a driver's license.

## **V. Liability**

It is important for schools and local school districts to have policies and procedures in place to comply with the Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act. A school should do everything it can to avoid inadvertent non-compliance of this law.

## **VI. Additional Information**

1. For general questions about the TAADRA law, please contact the GaDOE by phone at (404) 463-7891, (404) 656-2800 or 1 (800) 311-3627. You may also contact GaDOE by email at [jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us) or [askdoe@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:askdoe@doe.k12.ga.us).
2. For questions pertaining to license reinstatements or revoked/suspended licenses, contact the DDS by telephone at (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500 or (678) 413-8600.