

- Administration
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- **Office of Criminal Justice Services**
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

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**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OHIO OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (OCJS)  
DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM  
ONLINE PILOT INFORMATIONAL SHEET**

ODPS will be conducting a pilot program to allow optional driver's education in an online setting rather than a traditional classroom. The same curriculum used in classroom instruction will be required of all online providers. The manner and method of delivery will be up to the online provider to determine; however the Driver Training Section in OCJS must approve and license all online providers prior to deployment of an online program in Ohio. Participation in the online pilot will be optional for students.

Any entity that is a currently licensed driver training school in Ohio, as well as online providers who are not currently licensed in Ohio, are invited to participate in this online pilot program. An application and online course proposal must be submitted to OCJS/Driver Training Section in order to receive a license.

Licensure & Partnership:

- DPS will continue to license the online providers and regulate driver training pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 4501-7.
- Online providers and currently licensed traditional schools in Ohio will be encouraged to partner so that a student can complete the required eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction even though they do not take the twenty-four hours of classroom instruction from that school.
- The partnership between an entity that provides only online instruction and a currently licensed traditional school can be a simple agreement; however, it must be in writing. DPS will require a copy of the commitment between currently licensed traditional schools and the online provider in order to approve an online provider's application. A currently licensed traditional school will be able to partner with more than one online provider, just as an online provider will likely partner with various currently licensed traditional schools around Ohio.
- Those wishing to become online providers will need to meet the Standards for Online Driver Education set forth by DPS.
- Students will need to complete the entire online instruction prior to beginning the behind-the-wheel instruction, which is not a requirement of current classroom instruction.
- Students must not be able to complete the online classroom instruction in less than 72 hours. All online providers must have controls in place to ensure that online instruction cannot be completed in less than 72 hours.

ODPS is in the process of filing rules with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) to formalize the manner in which online providers will be regulated. The draft rules can be viewed on our website <http://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/index.stm>. A public hearing is set for September 6, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss any suggestions, revisions, or concerns with the draft rules. The hearing will be held at the Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223, in the Motorcycle Ohio classroom on the first floor.

**Mission Statement**

*"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."*

Prior to the public hearing date, we invite feedback and public comment from interested parties via phone or email. To provide feedback on the proposed rules, please contact Driver Training at (614) 466-3524. Email may be directed to the attention of Valerie Luptak at [VLuptak@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:VLuptak@dps.state.oh.us). It would be helpful to include “Online Pilot Program” in the subject line of your email. You may also send information via U.S. mail to: 1970 West Broad Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Columbus, Ohio 43223, ATTN: Valerie Luptak. We will do our best to respond to inquiries and comments in a timely manner; however, some answers may not be available for discussion until the public hearing for the JCARR rules on September 6.

We look forward to working with our currently licensed traditional schools and other online providers in this endeavor. We are eager to partner with everyone to bring Ohio’s Driver Education program into the future.