

CHAPTER 634
DRIVER EDUCATION

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

761—634.1(321) Information and location. Applications, forms and information regarding this chapter are available by mail from the Motor Vehicle Division, Iowa Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 9204, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9204; in person at 6310 SE Convenience Blvd., Ankeny, Iowa; by telephone at (515)244-8725; by facsimile at (515)239-1837; or on the department's website at www.iowadot.gov.
[ARC 4909C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6062C, IAB 12/1/21, effective 1/5/22]

761—634.2(321) Definitions.

"Behind-the-wheel instruction" means the street or highway driving instruction component of an approved driver education course.

"Instructor," for purposes of this chapter, means a person certified to provide behind-the-wheel instruction.

"Laboratory instruction" includes instruction received by a student while the student is in the driver education vehicle or adjacent to it as referred to in paragraphs 634.4(2) "c" and 634.4(2) "d" and may also include range or simulation as referred to in paragraphs 634.4(2) "h" and 634.4(2) "i."

"Serious injury" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 702.18.

"Teacher" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 272.1.

[ARC 4909C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

761—634.3 Reserved.

761—634.4(321) Driver education course standards and requirements.

634.4(1) Course approval. Any school district, area education agency, merged area school, other agency or person planning to offer a driver education course must receive course approval, which includes approval of all teachers and instructors listed on the application, from the department prior to the beginning of the first class that is offered and annually thereafter. The agency or institution or person shall apply for course approval in a manner determined by the department. Course approval must be renewed annually. The approval is valid for one calendar year or a remaining calendar year and expires on December 31. The application for course renewal shall be submitted to the department within 60 days of the expiration date, unless otherwise approved by the department.

634.4(2) Course requirements. Driver education courses provided by approved programs must comply with the following:

a. Schools shall provide for each student a minimum of 1800 minutes in classroom instruction, plus 360 minutes in supervised laboratory instruction, exclusive of observation time, in a dual-control motor vehicle.

b. Each student shall be scheduled to receive classroom or laboratory instruction each week of the course. Except upon showing of good cause, laboratory instruction shall not conclude later than 45 days after classroom instruction has been completed. When the driver education course provider determines there is good cause, the laboratory instruction shall not conclude later than 90 days after classroom instruction has been completed. For the purpose of this paragraph, "good cause" means an unanticipated event causing a delay in the student's ability to complete the laboratory instruction if the event is beyond the student's control.

c. Behind-the-wheel instruction shall be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per student per session and a maximum of 60 minutes in a single day.

d. Two or more students shall be scheduled for all behind-the-wheel instruction to ensure that appropriate observation time is experienced.

e. Routine maintenance of motor vehicles to maximize energy efficiency and safety shall be included in classroom instruction.

f. Operation of motor vehicles to maximize energy efficiency and safety shall be included in classroom instruction.

g. Each school district shall provide students who are absent from instruction an opportunity to make up a reasonable amount of time and coursework.

h. When driving simulators are used for part of the behind-the-wheel driving experience, four hours of simulator experience shall be considered equal to one hour of behind-the-wheel driving in the car. However, in addition to simulator time, a minimum of three hours of on-street, behind-the-wheel driving must be completed.

i. When driving ranges are used in driver education courses, two hours of range experience shall be considered equal to one hour of on-street, behind-the-wheel driving. However, in addition to range time, a minimum of three hours of on-street, behind-the-wheel driving must be completed.

j. Motor vehicles which are designed primarily for carrying nine or fewer occupants, excluding motorcycles and mopeds, are the only motor vehicles approved for use in driver education courses, and each shall be equipped with a dual control. In addition, all driver education vehicles shall have an inside rearview mirror and an outside rearview mirror mounted on each side of the vehicle.

k. The driver education teacher or instructor shall verify at the beginning of each course that each student possesses a valid instruction permit or driver's license. Each student shall be responsible for possessing an instruction permit or driver's license throughout all laboratory instruction and report any suspension, revocation or cancellation of the instruction permit or driver's license to the driver education teacher or instructor prior to attending laboratory instruction.

634.4(3) *Experimental program.* Approval of an experimental program may be granted by the department if based on student or school district need for improved instruction. The maximum duration of an experimental program shall be three years. Annual documentation of the effectiveness of instruction is required and must be submitted to the department subsequent to program completion.

[ARC 4909C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6337C, IAB 6/1/22, effective 7/6/22]

761—634.5 Reserved.

761—634.6(321) Instructor qualifications, application and certification.

634.6(1) *Behind-the-wheel instructor qualifications.* To qualify to provide behind-the-wheel instruction, the person must:

a. Hold a valid driver's license that permits unaccompanied driving, other than a motorized bicycle license or a temporary restricted license.

b. Have a clear driving record for the previous two years. A clear driving record means the person has:

(1) Not been identified as a candidate for driver's license suspension under the habitual violator provisions of rule 761—615.13(321) or the serious violation provisions of rule 761—615.17(321).

(2) No driver's license suspensions, revocations, denials, cancellations, disqualifications or bars.

(3) Not committed an offense that would result in driver's license suspension, revocation, denial, cancellation, disqualification or bar.

(4) No record of a contributive motor vehicle accident that caused the death or serious injury of another person.

(5) No record of two or more contributive motor vehicle accidents in a two-year period.

c. Meet the requirements for either a licensed teacher in 282—subrule 13.28(4) or a certified behind-the-wheel instructor in this chapter.

634.6(2) *Behind-the-wheel instructor's certification requirements.* Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the following requirements shall apply to a behind-the-wheel instructor:

a. An applicant for an initial behind-the-wheel instructor's certification or a renewal shall apply to the department in a manner determined by the department.

(1) If the application is for an initial behind-the-wheel instructor's certification, instructor approval is valid for a calendar year or the remainder of a calendar year. The instructor approval expires on December 31 but remains valid for an additional 30 days after the expiration date.

(2) If the application is to renew a behind-the-wheel instructor's certification, a person shall do all of the following:

1. Apply to the department annually. Instructor approval is valid for a calendar year or the remainder of a calendar year. The instructor approval expires on December 31 but remains valid for an additional 30 days after the expiration date. An application for renewal of instructor approval shall be submitted within 60 days of the expiration date, unless otherwise approved by the department.

2. Provide behind-the-wheel instruction for a minimum of 12 clock hours during each calendar year.

b. Beginning January 1, 2021, a person shall complete at least one state-sponsored or state-approved behind-the-wheel instructor refresher course biennially. The state-sponsored or state-approved course may include electronic completion or remote attendance options, as approved by the department. The department may develop a special course for licensed teachers or peace officers who qualify to provide behind-the-wheel instruction under subrule 634.6(3) or 634.6(5), which shall be reserved only for licensed teachers or peace officers who qualify as behind-the-wheel instructors.

c. Upon certification, but prior to providing behind-the-wheel instruction, the person shall be:

(1) Authorized by the Iowa board of educational examiners to provide behind-the-wheel driving instruction.

(2) Employed by a public or licensed commercial or private provider of the approved driver education course.

634.6(3) *Instructor's certification for licensed teachers.* A teacher licensed by the Iowa board of educational examiners as provided in 282—subrule 13.28(4) shall be included as an approved instructor on an annual driver education course approval as referenced in subrules 634.4(1) and 634.8(1), and except for the requirements in paragraphs 634.6(2)“a” and 634.6(2)“c,” a teacher shall meet the requirements in subrule 634.6(2) to be certified by the department to provide behind-the-wheel instruction.

634.6(4) *Instructor application and certification for a teacher with an expired teacher's license.* A teacher who holds an expired initial, standard, exchange, or master educator license with an endorsement for driver education as provided in 282—subrule 13.28(4) shall meet the requirements in subrule 634.6(2) to be certified by the department to provide behind-the-wheel instruction.

634.6(5) *Instructor application and certification for active peace officers and retired peace officers.*

a. A person who is an active peace officer or a retired peace officer as referenced in Iowa Code section 321.178 shall do all of the following to be certified by the department to provide behind-the-wheel instruction:

(1) Be at least 25 years of age.

(2) Submit Form 431233 certifying the person's status as an active or retired peace officer.

(3) Meet all other requirements of subrule 634.6(2), except peace officers or retired peace officers who otherwise qualify under this subrule are not required to meet the requirement of subparagraph 634.6(2)“c”(1).

b. A retired peace officer is only required to submit Form 431233, required under paragraph 634.6(5)“a,” to the department once unless the form is invalid or not accepted by the department.

634.6(6) *Instructor application and certification for persons other than licensed teachers, peace officers or retired peace officers.*

a. A person who is not licensed by the Iowa board of educational examiners to provide classroom driver education as provided in 282—subrule 13.28(4), who does not hold an expired teacher's license as referenced in subrule 634.6(4), or who is not a peace officer or a retired peace officer as referenced in Iowa Code section 321.178, shall do all of the following to be certified by the department to provide behind-the-wheel instruction:

(1) Be at least 25 years of age.

(2) Meet the requirements in subrule 634.6(2), except that a person certified under this subrule shall complete the instructor refresher course referenced in paragraph 634.6(2)“b” annually until January 1, 2021, and thereafter shall complete the course biennially.

(3) Have successfully completed the instructor preparation requirements of this subrule, as evidenced by written attestations on a form provided by the department from both the classroom instructor and behind-the-wheel observer. The person seeking a behind-the-wheel certification must apply to the

department within 12 months of completion of the instructor preparation course. The department-approved instructor preparation course shall:

1. Consist of 24 clock hours of classroom instruction and 12 clock hours of observed behind-the-wheel instruction.
2. Include, at a minimum, classroom instruction on topics including the psychology of the young driver, behind-the-wheel teaching techniques, and driving route selection. Classroom instruction shall be delivered by staff from a driver education teacher preparation program that is approved by the Iowa board of educational examiners. The duration of a classroom instruction section shall not exceed four hours. Video-conferencing may be used for course delivery.
3. Include observation of behind-the-wheel instruction provided by a person licensed to teach driver education who is specially trained by a driver education teacher preparation program that is approved by the Iowa board of educational examiners and that is designed to observe, coach, and evaluate behind-the-wheel instructor candidates. The duration of a behind-the-wheel session shall not exceed four hours. A dual-controlled motor vehicle must be used.

b. Reserved.

634.6(7) Behind-the-wheel certification—reissuance.

a. A person whose behind-the-wheel certification has expired and is past the renewal period may be reissued a behind-the-wheel certification without having to retake the behind-the-wheel instructor preparation course only if the person meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) The person held a valid behind-the-wheel certification within the two years immediately preceding the application.
- (2) The person provided a minimum of 12 clock hours of behind-the-wheel instruction within the two years immediately preceding the application.
- (3) The person completed at least one state-sponsored or state-approved behind-the-wheel instructor refresher course within the two calendar years immediately preceding the application unless otherwise exempt under this chapter.
- (4) The person completed a minimum of 12 clock hours shadowing a teacher licensed by the Iowa board of educational examiners as provided in 282—subrule 13.28(4) through a department-approved driver education program within 90 days immediately preceding the application.

b. Upon certification, but prior to providing behind-the-wheel instruction, the person shall do all of the following:

- (1) Be authorized by the Iowa board of educational examiners to provide behind-the-wheel driving instruction unless otherwise exempt under this chapter.
- (2) Be employed by a public or licensed commercial or private provider of the approved driver education course and work under the supervision of a person licensed by the Iowa board of educational examiners as provided in 282—subrule 13.28(4).

[ARC 4909C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

761—634.7(321) Instructor disqualification, investigation and cancellation.

634.7(1) Disqualifications. A person shall be disqualified by the department from certification as a behind-the-wheel driving instructor for any of the reasons for which the executive director of the Iowa board of educational examiners would deny an application for licensure, certification or authorization as provided in rule 282—11.35(272).

634.7(2) Investigation. The department may investigate an applicant for a behind-the-wheel instructor's certification or an instructor to determine if the applicant or instructor meets the requirements for certification. The investigation may include but is not limited to an inquiry into the applicant's or instructor's criminal history from the department of public safety.

634.7(3) Cancellation. The department shall cancel the behind-the-wheel instructor's certification of an individual who no longer qualifies under this chapter.

[ARC 4909C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

761—634.8(321) Private and commercial driver education schools. The department licenses private and commercial driver education schools as follows:

634.8(1) Course approval. Before becoming licensed, a driver education school must receive course approval, which includes approval of all teachers and instructors listed on the application, from the department prior to the beginning of the first class that is offered and annually thereafter. Behind-the-wheel instruction must be provided by a person who meets the instructor requirements in rule 761—634.6(321). Evidence of the approvals and certifications must be submitted to the department upon application for a license, upon renewal of a license, and upon reinstatement of a license following cancellation.

634.8(2) Application and fees. Application for license issuance or renewal shall be made to the department in a manner determined by the department. The fee for a license or the renewal of a license is \$25. The fee must be paid by cash, money order or check, unless the department approves payment of the fee by electronic means. A money order or check must be for the exact amount and should be made payable to the Treasurer, State of Iowa, or the Department of Transportation.

634.8(3) Issuance and renewal. A license to teach driver education shall be issued for a calendar year or remainder of a calendar year. The license expires on December 31 but remains valid for an additional 30 days after the expiration date. The application for renewal shall be submitted to the department within 60 days of the expiration date, unless otherwise approved by the department.

634.8(4) Cancellation. A license to teach driver education shall be canceled if the course, teacher, or instructor is no longer approved or the person providing only behind-the-wheel instruction for driver education is no longer certified by the department and authorized by the Iowa board of educational examiners.

[ARC 4909C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

761—634.9 and 634.10 Reserved.

761—634.11(321) Driver education—teaching parent. As an alternative to a driver education course offered by a course provider approved under rule 761—634.4(321), a teaching parent may instruct a student in an approved course of driver education.

634.11(1) Definitions. As used in this rule:

“*Approved course*” means a driver education curriculum approved by the department that meets the requirements of Iowa Code section 321.178A and is appropriate for teaching-parent-directed driver education and related behind-the-wheel instruction.

“*Clear driving record*” means the person currently and during the prior two-year period has not been identified as a candidate for suspension or revocation of a driver’s license under the habitual offender or habitual violator provisions of rule 761—615.9(321) or rule 761—615.13(321); is not subject to a driver’s license suspension, revocation, denial, cancellation, disqualification, or bar; and has no record of a conviction for a moving traffic violation determined to be the cause of a motor vehicle accident.

“*Course vendor*” means a third-party vendor that makes available commercially an approved course.

“*Student*” means a person between the ages of 14 and 21 years who is within the custody and control of the teaching parent and who holds a valid Iowa noncommercial instruction permit.

“*Teaching parent*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321.178A.

634.11(2) Reserved.

634.11(3) Instruction by a teaching parent.

a. A teaching parent shall instruct the student using an approved course.

b. The teaching parent shall select the course to be used from the list of approved courses posted on the department’s website and shall purchase the course directly from the applicable course vendor.

c. No person shall provide driver education as a teaching parent unless the person meets the definition of a teaching parent, and the department shall not recognize driver education that was:

- (1) Provided by a person who does not meet the definition of a teaching parent.
- (2) Provided to a person who is not a student as defined in subrule 634.11(1).
- (3) Offered under a course other than an approved course.

634.11(4) Course completion—certificate of completion.

a. Upon the student’s completion of an approved course, the teaching parent shall apply for a certificate of completion on behalf of the student. The teaching parent shall provide evidence showing the student’s completion of an approved course and substantial compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code

section 321.178A, by affidavit signed by the teaching parent on a form provided by the department. The teaching parent shall include with the application all documentation, statements, certifications, and logs required by Iowa Code section 321.178A. The application and all required documentation, statements, certifications, and logs shall be submitted to the motor vehicle division.

b. The department shall review the application and evidence submitted and shall deny certification of completion if:

(1) The course was not conducted by a person meeting the definition of a teaching parent for the student for whom certification is sought.

(2) The application does not properly identify a student eligible to be instructed in driver education by the teaching parent.

(3) The application and evidence do not demonstrate the student's successful completion of an approved course.

(4) The application and evidence do not include all documentation, statements, certifications, and logs required by Iowa Code section 321.178A in adequate and proper form and content.

(5) The department has determined that the application should be rejected for any reason listed in Iowa Code section 321.13.

c. If the application is denied, the department shall issue a letter of denial to the teaching parent explaining the reason or reasons for the denial.

d. If the application is approved, the department shall issue a certificate of completion to the student identified in the application. A certification of completion issued by the department under this subrule shall constitute proof of successful completion of an Iowa-approved course in driver education but shall not be grounds for waiver of a driving test under 761—subrule 604.31(2).

634.11(5) *Course approval.*

a. For a course to become an approved course under Iowa Code section 321.178A, a vendor of a driver education curriculum shall submit an application on a form provided by the department to the motor vehicle division, along with a copy of all proposed curriculum materials. A vendor offering an electronic curriculum may provide a uniform resource locator (URL) for the proposed electronic materials.

b. To be designated as an approved course, the curriculum submitted must, at a minimum, meet the requirements of Iowa Code section 321.178A, be appropriate for teaching-parent-directed driver education and related street or highway instruction, and meet or exceed the required content set forth in the Appendix to this rule.

c. The department shall review the application and proposed curriculum and shall issue a letter of denial to the course vendor explaining the reason or reasons for denial if the proposed curriculum does not meet the requirements for an approved course.

d. If the proposed curriculum is approved, the department shall issue a certificate of approval to the vendor designating the curriculum as an approved course and shall list the approved course on the department's website. Course approval will be issued for one calendar year or for the remainder of a calendar year. The approval expires on December 31 and must be renewed annually by the submission of an application on a form provided by the department and all required materials as set forth in this subrule at least 60 days prior to the expiration date, unless otherwise approved by the department.

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These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321.178, 321.178A, 321.180B and 321.194.

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Appendix to Rule 761—634.11(321)

To be designated as an approved course, a curriculum must, at a minimum, meet the requirements of Iowa Code section 321.178A, be appropriate for teaching-parent-directed driver education and related street or highway instruction, and meet or exceed the required content listed below:

1. *Duration and required content.* The course must provide for both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction. As used in this rule, “*classroom instruction*” means instruction provided by a teaching parent in a private setting using printed or electronic course materials, and “*behind-the-wheel instruction*” means street or highway driving instruction provided by a teaching parent or a person who is qualified to provide street or highway driving instruction pursuant to Iowa Code section 321.178 in a motor vehicle operated by the student.
 - a. Classroom instruction shall include all of the following:
 - i. Instruction concerning distracted driving and substance abuse.
 - ii. Instruction concerning railroad crossing safety.
 - iii. Instruction relating to becoming an organ donor under the revised uniform anatomical gift Act as provided in Iowa Code chapter 142C.
 - iv. Instruction providing awareness about sharing the road with pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles.
 - b. Behind-the-wheel instruction shall consist of at least 40 hours of street or highway driving including 4 hours of driving after sunset and before sunrise while accompanied by the teaching parent or a person who is qualified to provide street or highway driving instruction pursuant to Iowa Code section 321.178.
2. *Required topics.* The course may follow any format the vendor determines, provided all of the following topics are properly and adequately covered, as detailed in the course application form provided by the department:
 - a. Traffic law – *classroom instruction*
 - i. Introduction to driver education and driving laws and privileges.
 - ii. Understanding your license to drive.
 - iii. Right-of-way.
 - iv. Traffic control devices.
 - v. Controlling traffic flow.
 - vi. Alcohol and other drugs.
 - vii. Cooperating with other roadway users.
 - b. Driver preparation – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Pre-drive tasks.
 - ii. Occupant protection.
 - iii. Symbols and devices.
 - iv. Starting tasks.
 - v. Vehicle operation and control tasks.
 - vi. Post-drive tasks.
 - vii. In-car progress assessment.
 - viii. Driving plan (*classroom instruction*).
 - c. Vehicle movements – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Visual attention, mental attention and communication.

- ii. Reference points.
- iii. Vehicle balance.
- iv. Vehicle maneuvers.
- v. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
- d. Driver readiness – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Driving practices.
 - ii. Fatigue.
 - iii. Aggressive driving.
 - iv. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
- e. Risk reduction – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Risk factors.
 - ii. Space management.
 - iii. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
- f. Environmental factors – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Environmental characteristics.
 - ii. Environmental risk factors.
 - iii. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
- g. Distractions – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Distractions.
 - ii. Multi-task performances.
 - iii. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
- h. Alcohol and other drugs – *classroom instruction*
 - i. Introduction of alcohol and other drug problems.
 - ii. Nature of alcohol-related crash problems.
 - iii. Physiological effects of alcohol.
 - iv. Psychological effects of alcohol.
 - v. Other drug effects on the driving task.
 - vi. Zero-tolerance in the driving environment.
- i. Vehicle movement and reference points – *behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Vehicle movements and reference points (entering and exiting traffic and parking).
 - ii. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
- j. Adverse conditions – *classroom instruction*
 - i. Adverse weather and reduced visibility conditions.
 - ii. Traction loss.
 - iii. Emergencies.
- k. Vehicle requirements – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Vehicle malfunctions (*classroom instruction*).
 - ii. Vehicle maintenance (*classroom instruction*).
 - iii. Trip planning (*classroom instruction*).
 - iv. Adverse conditions and vehicle requirements – off-street simulated practice (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
 - v. In-car progress assessments (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).

1. Consumer responsibility – *classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*
 - i. Vehicle use and ownership (*classroom instruction*).
 - ii. Vehicle insurance (*classroom instruction*).
 - iii. Environmental protection and litter prevention (*classroom instruction*).
 - iv. Anatomical gift Act – organ donor (*classroom instruction*).
 - v. Trip planning (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
 - vi. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).
- m. Personal responsibility (*classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction*).
 - i. Comprehensive classroom progress assessment (testing) (*classroom instruction*).
 - ii. Driver licensing (*classroom instruction*).
 - iii. In-car progress assessment (*behind-the-wheel instruction*).

[ARC 1612C, IAB 9/3/14, effective 10/8/14; ARC 6062C, IAB 12/1/21, effective 1/5/22]