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ABSTRACT

Driver Education is one of the most expensive courses on a per pupil basis offered in secondary schools. In order to assess the magnitude of driver education in New York State, and to evaluate the various methods and approaches used to teach the course, the Office of Education Performance Review surveyed 67 driver education programs offered at various school districts throughout the State. The wide variation in driver education costs--from \$49 to \$362 per pupil--is attributable to the method and approach used to teach the course. Driver education taught using the dual control method during the regular school day cost an average of \$162 per pupil. The same course taught at a time other than during the regular school day cost an average of \$93, making the regular school day program \$69 or 74 percent more costly. Costs could be greatly reduced by scheduling driver education programs before or after the regular school day, on Saturdays, or as a summer program, and contracting with a commercial driving school for the laboratory portion. An appendix lists cost and enrollment data for all 67 programs. (MW)

ED 095359

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REVIEW

COST VARIATIONS IN DRIVER EDUCATION
A SURVEY OF 67 PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS

APRIL 1974

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
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SUMMARY

Driver education, although popular, is one of the most expensive courses on a per pupil basis offered in secondary schools of New York State.

No information is available on the total statewide cost of driver education. In order to assess the magnitude of driver education in New York State, and to evaluate the various methods and approaches used to teach the course, the Office of Education Performance Review surveyed 67 driver education programs offered at various school districts throughout the State.*

The 67 programs surveyed were conducted in the following manner:

- 32 were taught during the regular school day using the dual control method, which entails students practicing driving on public highways in a car equipped with dual control brakes;
- 4 were taught during the regular school day using simulators, an electro-mechanical device, similar to a Link trainer;
- 3 took place during the regular school day and used a commercial driving school to teach students the laboratory or driving portion of the course;

* See Appendix for a complete listing of cost and enrollment data for all 67 programs.

- 16 were taught either after school, on Saturdays, or in a summer school program, using the dual control method;
- 9 were taught after school, on Saturdays, or in a summer program using a driving simulator; and
- 3 were conducted after school, on Saturdays, or in a summer program, with a commercial driving school teaching the laboratory segment of the course.

Findings

A total of 11,313 students were enrolled in the 67 programs, at a total cost of \$1,477,949. Per pupil costs ranged from \$49 to \$362 averaging \$131. Based on this sample, it can be estimated that the statewide cost of driver education during the 1972-73 school year was approximately \$20 million.*

Teacher salaries and fringe benefits ranged up to 99 percent of total program costs, averaging 37 percent. If programs using commercial driving schools were excluded, teacher salaries and fringes averaged 95 percent of total program costs.

The number of students enrolled in a program does not directly correlate with costs. A dual control, regular school day program in Genesee County for 73 students cost \$14,285, while the same type of program for 73 students in

* 152,214 (1972-73 statewide enrollment) x \$131 (average survey per pupil cost) = \$19.94 million.

Madison County offered through a shared-services program cost \$7,810, a difference of 83 percent.

A Suffolk County school district operated a program for 168 students at a cost of \$14,373, while one Erie County school program for 220 pupils cost \$15,092.

The specific method used to teach the course, as well as the time of year or time of day that it is offered does affect costs. The following are the average per pupil costs for each type of program:

Regular School Day*

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Dual control | \$162 |
| Simulator | \$150 |
| Commercial driving school | \$123 |

After School, Saturdays, and Summer*

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Dual control | \$ 93 |
| Simulator | \$101 |
| Commercial driving school | \$ 72 |

- The highest average per pupil cost, \$162, was 225 percent of the lowest average per pupil cost, \$72.
- Regular school day programs (all methods) averaged \$154 per pupil; non-regular school day programs (all methods) averaged \$92 per pupil, a savings of \$62 or 40 percent.

* In all cases the classroom portion of the course was taught by a certified secondary school teacher.

- Regular school day programs using a driving simulator were only seven percent less costly than regular school day dual control programs. The simulator program costs do not include capital amortization charges which, if included, would raise program costs.
- 32 of the 67 programs, or almost 48 percent of the sample, offered the course through the method and approach (regular school day, dual control) which was, on average, the most costly way surveyed.
- Only three schools, accounting for less than five percent of the sample, offered the course using the method and approach having the lowest average per pupil cost (after school, Saturdays, and summer, commercial driving school).
- Regular school day, dual control programs were \$39 or 32 percent more costly than programs using commercial driving schools to teach the in-car portion of the course.
- Dual control programs taught during the regular school day are, on average, \$69 or 74 percent more costly than similar programs offered at times other than the regular school day.
- The most costly way of offering driver education (regular school day, dual control) averaged \$90

or 125 percent more per pupil than the least costly manner (after school, Saturday, and summer, commercial driving school).

- Based on these averages, a school now offering driver education to 300 students during the regular school day and teaching the course through the traditional dual control method, could save \$27,000 a year by contracting with a commercial driving school to teach the in-car portion, and by offering the course at a time other than the regular school day.

Recommendations

In view of this disparity of expenditures, and the fact that certain methods and approaches can dramatically reduce costs without a demonstrable difference in effectiveness, school district boards of education should promptly

- determine the true and complete costs of their driver education programs;
- compare their driver education per pupil cost with per pupil costs for other courses offered in the same school;
- compare the driver education per pupil cost with other schools' driver education per pupil costs;

- analyze the particular cost advantages of alternative methods and approaches already practiced by schools throughout the State; and
- schedule for the annual school district meeting a discussion of
 - whether any school-sponsored driver education program should be continued; and
 - if the program is to be continued, how the course can be provided in the most cost-effective manner available.

BACKGROUND

Driver Education is one of the most expensive programs on a per pupil basis now offered in the secondary schools of New York State. It often costs more than academic subjects such as mathematics, social studies, and English. In the school districts included in this study, per pupil costs ranged from \$49 to \$362, and averaged \$131.

Moreover, since the program is a one semester, half-year long course, the per pupil costs must be doubled to allow for comparison with other academic subjects, since most other courses are generally a full school year in length. On that basis, driver education can be said to cost between \$98 and \$724 per pupil, per year.

While there is no conclusive evidence that driver education produces a benefit to society, there is a widespread belief that it does. However, it does confer upon students who complete the course certain attractive personal benefits, such as insurance discounts.

From the very inception of the horseless carriage, automobile mechanics and school teachers may have dabbled in driver training, but the first driver education course was probably offered in 1916 in the Gilbert, Minnesota High School. In 1933, one Amos Neyhart offered classroom and behind-the-wheel training at State College High School in Pennsylvania.

By 1936, the idea began to take hold. That year, Pennsylvania State College offered the first college course

for teachers; the American Automobile Association sponsored a 40-hour course for high school teachers in Bluefield, West Virginia. 1936 was also the year driver and safety education became a part of the secondary school curriculum in New York State.

Seventeen years later, in 1953, 43,000 New York State students were taking driver training. By 1963, almost 75,000 students were enrolled in driver education courses, and by 1973 that number had risen to more than 150,000. During the 1972-73 school year 152,214 secondary school students enrolled in driver education. This represented 28 percent of the total 11th and 12th grade enrollment that year.

In the 1972-73 school year, including the summer of 1973, 1,700 New York State secondary school driver education programs were approved by the State Education Department and 1,373 actually taught, of which 452 were public and private summer school programs.*

Driver education, of and by itself, is not required to be offered in the public schools either by law or State Education Department regulation, although the Education Law (Section 806) requires the State Board of Regents to prescribe courses in highway safety. Parents, safety groups and others, however, promote driver education programs.

* Source: State Education Department, Safety Education Unit.

Students now taking driver education must receive a minimum of 48 hours of instruction - four, forty minute periods per week for a semester of at least 18 weeks, or the equivalent. Thirty-six periods must be classroom instruction, and at least an additional 36 periods must be laboratory (in-car) instruction, using automobiles or driving simulators. Students must receive the classroom and laboratory segments of the course in the same semester.

By Education Department policy,* the classroom segment is limited to 36 students. Special Departmental approval is required for larger classroom groups. The in-car instruction is limited to a maximum of four students at one time.

Driver education may be offered as part of an approved summer program as long as the total hourly requirements are met.

The following table shows the division of the 48 hours required by the Education Department for approved driver education programs:

| <u>Segment</u> | <u>Hours</u> | <u>Teacher Qualification</u> |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| Classroom | 24 | Certified secondary school teacher.** |
| Laboratory | | Certified secondary school teacher** or licensed commercial driving school teacher. |
| Observation | 18 | |
| Driving Time | <u>6</u> | |
| Total | <u><u>48</u></u> | |

* State Education Department, "Driver and Traffic Safety Education Policies," Policy A16, January 1971.

** In addition, teachers must have provisional or permanent Education Department approval to teach driver education.

Up to 12 hours of the laboratory portion may be fulfilled by students working in driving simulators or driving on a multiple vehicle facility. There are no alternatives presently available for the classroom segment.

The Education Department's Safety Education Unit is responsible for

- reviewing and evaluating driver education programs;
- assisting in training driver education teachers;
- establishing qualifications for driver education teachers and programs;
- assisting schools in curriculum development;
- acting upon applications of candidates who want to teach driver education;
- acting upon applications of schools who want to start driver education programs; and
- annually approving summer school driver education programs.

There are four methods* used to teach driver education in the schools

- the dual control method using an automobile equipped with dual control brakes and dual mirrors;

* In all cases the classroom portion of the course is taught by a certified secondary school teacher.

- the simulator method which uses an electro-mechanical driving simulator, similar to a Link trainer;
- the driving range method which employs an off-street facility where an instructor may work with several vehicles simultaneously; and
- an arrangement where commercial driving schools may, under contract, teach the laboratory part of the course.

In addition, driver education may be offered:

- during the regular school day;
- before or after the regular school day;
- on Saturdays; or
- as a summer program.

Each of the methods and approaches used are described in more detail in the "Findings" section of this report.

To be eligible to take driver education, a student must be at least 16 years of age and have the written consent of his parent or guardian. Beyond these qualifications, schools may establish their own restrictions on eligibility; for example, they may limit entrance to the program to seniors in high school.

FINDINGS

No information is available on the total statewide cost of driver education. To assess the magnitude of driver education in New York State, and to evaluate the various methods and approaches used to teach the course, the Office of Education Performance Review surveyed 67 driver education programs offered at various school districts throughout the State.* Care was taken to assure that the survey was geographically representative, and that programs representing each of the prevalent teaching methods were included in the survey.

A total of 11,313 students were enrolled in the 67 programs, at a total cost of \$1,477,949. Per pupil costs of the various programs ranged from \$49 to \$362 averaging \$131. Based on this sample, it can be estimated that the statewide cost of driver education during the 1972-73 school year was approximately \$20 million.**

Teacher salaries and fringe benefits ranged up to 99 percent of total program costs, averaging 87 percent. If programs using commercial driving schools are excluded, teacher salaries and fringes averaged 95 percent of total program costs.

The 67 programs surveyed were taught in the following manner:

- 32 were regular school day, dual control programs;

* See Appendix for a complete listing of cost and enrollment data for all 67 programs.

** $152,214$ (1972-73 statewide enrollment) \times $\$131$ (average survey per pupil cost) = $\$19.94$ million.

- 4 were regular school day, simulator programs;
- 3 were regular school day, commercial driving school programs;
- 16 were after school, Saturday, and summer, dual control programs;
- 9 were after school, Saturday, and summer, simulator programs; and
- 3 were after school, Saturday, and summer commercial driving school programs.

To assess the cost impact of offering the course at various times and through various methods of teaching, each type of program surveyed will be discussed individually.

Regular School Day
Dual Control

The traditional method of teaching driver education is the dual control car method with one instructor teaching the laboratory segment of the program to a maximum of four students at a time in an automobile equipped with dual control brakes. This method, the most widely used in New York State, was also the most costly method and approach surveyed.

As noted previously, 32 of the 67 surveyed programs used the dual control method, teaching the course during the regular school year. The following table shows the 1972-73 school year costs for each of these programs.

| <u>Program</u> | <u>County Where School District Located</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> | <u>Number of Students</u> | <u>Per Pupil Cost</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Nassau | \$28,960 | 80 | \$362 |
| 2 | Herkimer | 9,954 | 32 | 311 |
| 3 | Suffolk | 41,563 | 160 | 260 |
| 4 | Rockland | 38,249 | 176 | 217 |
| 5 | Suffolk | 68,291 | 336 | 203 |
| 6 | Westchester | 42,086 | 208 | 202 |
| 7 | Genesee | 14,285 | 73 | 196 |
| 8 | Jefferson | 40,155 | 208 | 193 |
| 9 | Franklin | 5,400* | 28 | 193 |
| 10 | Warren | 34,653 | 182 | 190 |
| 11 | Suffolk | 41,985 | 224 | 187 |
| 12 | Cayuga | 13,381 | 72 | 186 |
| 13 | Delaware | 5,363 | 31 | 173 |
| 14 | Cattaraugus | 8,254 | 48 | 172 |
| 15 | Otsego | 7,127 | 42 | 170 |
| 16 | Erie | 46,169 | 271 | 170 |
| 17 | Saratoga | 9,108* | 58 | 157 |
| 18 | Oswego | 14,989 | 96 | 156 |
| 19 | Allegany | 4,025* | 26 | 155 |
| 20 | Nassau | 122,992 | 828 | 149 |
| 21 | Washington | 6,863* | 52 | 132 |
| 22 | Dutchess | 7,361* | 56 | 131 |
| 23 | Orange | 35,648 | 274 | 130 |
| 24 | Suffolk | 12,647 | 99 | 128 |
| 25 | Onieda | 24,116 | 205 | 118 |
| 26 | Clinton | 13,873 | 120 | 116 |
| 27 | Steuben | 5,734* | 51 | 112 |
| 28 | Onondaga | 10,328 | 96 | 108 |
| 29 | Madison | 7,810* | 73 | 107 |
| 30 | Seneca | 7,864 | 110 | 71 |
| 31 | Niagara | 17,102 | 240 | 71 |
| 32 | Chautagua | 7,218 | 110 | 66 |
| | Totals | <u>\$753,553</u> | <u>4,665</u> | <u>\$162**</u> |

As the table shows, program costs vary widely across the state. Within this portion of the sample, the highest program expenditure was \$122,992 while the lowest program expenditure was \$4,025.

* Shared services program. These programs do not appear to uniformly reduce per pupil expenditures.

** Average

Per pupil costs also vary widely from \$66 to \$362, a difference of approximately 550 percent. A driver education program in Genesee County for 73 pupils cost \$14,285, while another program for 73 pupils in Madison County offered through a shared-services program cost \$7,810, a difference of 83 percent.

The number of students enrolled in a program does not directly correlate with costs. A Seneca County program for 110 students cost \$71 per pupil, while a Niagara County program also cost \$71 per pupil, but served 240 students.

Costs vary within geographical regions and even within counties. The following table lists 1972-73 school year costs for programs in the Nassau-Suffolk region:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>County Where School District Located</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> | <u>Number of Students</u> | <u>Per Pupil Cost</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Nassau | \$28,960 | 80 | \$362 |
| 3 | Suffolk | 41,563 | 160 | 260 |
| 5 | Suffolk | 68,291 | 336 | 203 |
| 11 | Suffolk | 41,985 | 224 | 187 |
| 20 | Nassau | 122,992 | 828 | 149 |
| 24 | Suffolk | 12,647 | 99 | 128 |

While two of these schools (number 3 and 11) spend comparable amounts for their programs, one school is able to teach the course to 40 percent more students than the other, thereby reducing its per pupil cost by \$73.

Regular School Day
Simulator

With special approval from the State Education Department a school district may use driving simulators in its driver education programs. A driving simulator is an electro-mechanical device (similar to a Link trainer) which approximates the driver's compartment in an automobile. Students manipulate the simulator in response to a movie projected on a screen. The student's reactions to driving conditions are monitored and recorded.

The State Education Department permits simulator time to be substituted for in-car laboratory time for a maximum of 12 hours. Each student must still receive at least an additional 12 hours of in-car training on public streets and highways, with 3 of these 12 hours spent behind the wheel.

Simulator systems are generally designed to accommodate at least 12 students and can be controlled by one teacher, thereby increasing the potential pupil teacher ratio from 1:4 to 1:12.

Four of the programs surveyed used simulators in their regular school day programs. The following table summarizes their 1972-73 school year costs:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>County Where School District Located</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> | <u>Number of Students</u> | <u>Per Pupil Cost</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 33 | Suffolk | \$63,671 | 384 | \$166 |
| 34 | Erie | 58,604 | 380 | 154 |
| 35 | Albany | 55,552 | 365 | 152 |
| 36 | Nassau | 34,790 | 288 | 121 |
| Totals | | <u>\$212,617</u> | <u>1,417</u> | <u>\$150*</u> |

A new twelve-unit simulator system installed in a classroom costs approximately \$30,000. Factory reconditioned simulators can be purchased for approximately 50 percent of the cost of a new simulator. The costs shown above do not reflect amortization of driving simulators.

Without these amortization charges the average per pupil cost for regular school year programs using simulators was \$12 or seven percent less per pupil than regular school year dual control programs. Although the simulator programs were less costly than half of the dual control programs, they were more costly than eight dual control programs.

Regular School Day
Commercial Driving School

The Vehicle and Traffic Law (Section 507) and the policies of the State Education Department permit a school district to contract with licensed commercial driving schools for the laboratory portion of driver education programs.

The contract between the commercial school and the school district must require that commercial instructors have

* Average

completed a 30-hour course in driver training and traffic safety. Although there are approximately 550 commercial driving schools in New York State, the Education Department estimates that less than ten school districts contract with commercial driving schools for the laboratory segment of their driver education programs.

Although only 3 of the 67 survey programs used commercial driving schools during the regular school day, they taught 9.1 percent of the students in the sample. Program costs for these districts are summarized in the following table:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>County Where School District Located</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> | <u>Number of Students</u> | <u>Per Pupil Cost</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 37 | Rockland | \$90,177 | 576 | \$157 |
| 38 | Rockland | 19,755 | 233 | 85 |
| 39 | Suffolk | <u>16,928</u> | <u>224</u> | <u>76</u> |
| Totals | | <u>\$126,860</u> | <u>1,033</u> | <u>\$123*</u> |

The use of commercial driving schools for the laboratory segment of the program dramatically reduces program costs. The per pupil cost differences shown are attributable to varying district rates for certified teacher compensation for the classroom portion, rather than to variances in commercial school charges. Commercial driving schools charged school 37, \$66 per pupil; school 38, \$72 per pupil; and school 39, \$68 per pupil. (See Appendix for a complete listing of all program costs.)

* Average

After School, Saturday and Summer
Dual Control

State Education Department policies require that driver education be taught between 7 A.M. and 5 P.M. However, the Education Law (Section 3604) permits it to be taught on Saturdays.

Driver education may also be offered as part of an approved summer high school program of at least 30 session days. Pupils may receive a maximum of 90 minutes of classroom instruction and 90 minutes of laboratory instruction per day. The Education Department requires annual approval for these summer courses.

Normally, teachers are employed on an hourly or flat fee basis for programs offered at times other than during the regular school day or regular school year. The rate of compensation is generally determined by mutual agreement between school officials and teachers, or may be established in union contracts.

Sixteen of the 67 districts examined offered driver education, using the dual control method, at times other than the regular school day or year. The following table summarizes the costs of each of these programs:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>County Where School District Located</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> | <u>Number of Students</u> | <u>Per Pupil Cost</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 40 | Nassau | \$24,480 | 170 | \$144 |
| 41 | Rockland | 11,862 | 84 | 141 |
| 42 | Jefferson | 20,458 | 176 | 116 |
| 43 | Suffolk | 18,522 | 160 | 116 |
| 44 | Suffolk | 14,746 | 128 | 115 |
| 45 | Rockland | 5,491 | 48 | 114 |
| 46 | Nassau | 39,201 | 470 | 83 |
| 47 | Suffolk | 2,054 | 27 | 76 |
| 48 | Nassau | 14,848 | 196 | 76 |
| 49 | Tioga | 7,058 | 102 | 69 |
| 50 | Onieda | 9,657 | 144 | 67 |
| 51 | Erie | 11,278 | 171 | 66 |
| 52 | Herkimer | 2,515 | 40 | 63 |
| 53 | Cattaraugus | 1,870 | 32 | 58 |
| 54 | Seneca | 3,045 | 55 | 55 |
| 55 | Steuben | 1,122 | 23 | 49 |
| Totals | | <u>\$188,207</u> | <u>2,026</u> | <u>\$93*</u> |

As illustrated, offering driver education after school, on Saturday, or in a summer program can drastically reduce expenditures. The average per pupil cost for a dual control program offered during the regular school year was \$162. Compared to the \$93 per pupil cost shown above, the regular school year programs averaged \$69 or 74 percent more in cost. It is interesting to note that school number 40 in Nassau County offered a driver education program to 170 students at a cost of \$24,480, while school number 51 in Erie County offered a driver education program to 171 pupils for 46 percent of the cost of the Nassau school. As is true of all the programs surveyed, there was no apparent direct relationship between the number of pupils enrolled and the per pupil cost.

* Average

After School, Saturday, and Summer Simulator

Eight of the 65 surveyed programs were programs conducted after school, on Saturdays or during the summer, using a driving simulator for a portion of the laboratory segment. The costs for these programs offered during the 1972-73 school year are summarized below:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>County Where School District Located</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> | <u>Number of Students</u> | <u>Per Pupil Cost</u> |
|----------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 56 | Nassau | \$60,819 | 380 | \$160 |
| 57 | Westchester | 3,229 | 27 | 120 |
| 58 | Nassau | 18,063 | 196 | 92 |
| 59 | Suffolk | 14,373 | 168 | 86 |
| 50 | Madison | 8,446 | 100 | 84 |
| 61 | Nassau | 6,825 | 90 | 76 |
| 62 | Westchester | 4,355 | 58 | 75 |
| 63 | Erie | 15,092 | 220 | 69 |
| 64 | Albany | 11,414 | 180 | 63 |
| Totals | | <u>\$142,616</u> | <u>1,419</u> | <u>\$101*</u> |

As illustrated, unit costs range from \$63 to \$160 per pupil a difference of \$97 or 154 percent. A Suffolk County school district operated a program for 168 students at a cost of \$14,373, while an Erie County school operated a program for 52 more pupils for an additional \$719.

As is true of dual control method programs offered at times other than the regular school day or year, the average per pupil cost is far lower than any type of program operated during the regular school day or regular school year.

* Average

After School, Saturday, and Summer
Commercial Driving School

Only three of the 67 surveyed programs were offered at non-regular school hours using a commercial driving school for a portion of the laboratory segment. The following table summarizes costs for these programs:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>County Where School District Located</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> | <u>Number of Students</u> | <u>Per Pupil Cost</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 65 | Rockland | \$ 8,949 | 100 | \$ 89 |
| 66 | Suffolk | 27,588 | 392 | 70 |
| 67 | Nassau | <u>17,559</u> | <u>261</u> | <u>67</u> |
| Totals | | <u>\$54,096</u> | <u>753</u> | <u>\$ 72*</u> |

It is apparent that this method of driver training is by far the most economical method of all those surveyed yet only 4.5 percent of the sample used it. The average per pupil cost is less than half that of two types of programs (dual control and simulator) offered during the regular school day, and is \$51 or 41 percent percent less per pupil than the third regular school day program.

In addition to the methods examined in this study, driver education is also offered by the multiple vehicle or driving range method. With this method, a number of vehicles are used simultaneously on a special off-street facility under the direction of one or more teachers positioned outside the vehicles. Communication between teacher and student is accomplished by radio, or loudspeaker.

* Average

There are seven multiple vehicle facilities in the state, offering the program to approximately one and a third percent of all driver education students in the state. There were no multiple vehicle programs included in this survey. The use of multiple vehicle facilities involves the availability of land and variable capital expenditures which must be included in any program costs.

Numerous studies of driver education throughout the country have failed to uncover any significant qualitative differences in the various methods and approaches used to teach the course. One method appears to be as good as another. However, solidly demonstrable differences can be found in the area of cost, as has been shown in the preceeding tables.

As a further demonstration of the effect of method and approach on per pupil costs, the following table shows costs for courses taught during the regular school day compared with the summer programs conducted by the same school using the same method:

| <u>Per Pupil Costs</u> | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>School</u> | <u>Regular School Day</u> | <u>Summer Program</u> |
| A | \$311 | \$ 63 |
| B | 217 | 114 |
| C | 203 | 115 |
| D | 193 | 116 |
| E | 172 | 58 |
| F | 166 | 86 |
| G | 154 | 69 |
| H | 128 | 76 |
| I | 121 | 92 |
| J | 118 | 67 |
| K | 112 | 49 |

As shown, summer programs dramatically reduce costs. School A's regular school day program cost of \$311 was \$248 or almost 400 percent more costly than its summer program. School E's regular school day program cost of \$172 was \$114 or almost 200 percent more costly. Four of the 11 schools shown on this table cut their per pupil expenditures by half or more in summer programs, and 8 of the 11 schools cut their per pupil costs by 40 percent or more.

Personal Benefits

Regardless of the method or approach used to teach driver education, a student completing the course (achieving grades of 65 or better in both the classroom and laboratory segments) receives a half-unit of Regents credit applied toward graduation requirements. In addition, he also receives from the Department of Motor Vehicles a MV 285 "Blue Card" certificate. This certificate grants the holder some attractive personal benefits:

- exemption from the written examination when applying for a New York State operator's license;
- exemption from three-hours of classroom instruction required of all other novice applicants for a license;
- eligibility to apply for a Type 5 or "senior" driver's license at age 17 rather than 18; and

-- a reduction of from 5 to 15 percent in automobile liability and collision insurance from some insurance companies.

It is obvious that students are attracted to driver education by these benefits, particularly the benefit of legal mobility during the hours of darkness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The wide variation in driver education costs - from \$49 to \$362 per pupil - or some 735 percent is attributable to the method and approach used to teach the course.

To summarize, based on the survey sample of 67 driver education programs, the following are the average per pupil costs for each type of program:

Regular school day*

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Dual control | \$162 |
| Simulator | \$150 |
| Commercial driving school | \$123 |

After school, Saturday and summer*

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Dual control | \$ 93 |
| Simulator | \$101 |
| Commercial driving school | \$ 72 |

Average - all surveyed programs \$131

As this table shows, driver education taught using the dual control method during the regular school day cost an average of \$162 per pupil. The same course taught at a time other than during the regular school day cost an average of \$93, making the regular school day program \$69 or 74 percent more costly.

Based on these average costs, any school district now

* In all cases the classroom portion of the course was taught by a certified secondary school teacher.

offering a course using the dual control method to 300 pupils during the regular school day could reduce its expenditures by \$27,000 by scheduling it before or after the regular school day, on Saturdays or as a summer program, and contracting with a commercial driving school for the laboratory portion.

In view of this disparity of expenditures, and the fact that certain methods and approaches can dramatically reduce costs without a demonstrable difference in effectiveness, school district boards of education should promptly

- determine the true and complete costs of their driver education programs;
- compare their driver education per pupil cost to per pupil costs for other courses offered in the same school;
- compare the driver education per pupil cost to other schools' driver education per pupil costs;
- analyze the particular cost advantages of alternative methods and approaches already practiced by schools throughout the State; and
- schedule for the annual school district meeting a discussion of
 - whether any school-sponsored driver education program should be continued; and
 - if the program is to be continued, how the course can be provided in the most cost-effective manner available.



OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Program Cost and Enrollment Data
67 Driver Education Programs

| Program | Type / of Program | County Where School District Located | Number of Teachers | Teacher Compensation | Total Cost | Number of Pupils | Per Pupil Cost |
|---------|----------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | DR | Nassau | 1 | \$25,456 | \$28,960 | 80 | \$362 |
| 2 | DR | Herkimer | 2 | 8,700 | 9,954 | 32 | 311 |
| 3 | DR | Suffolk | 2 | 40,631 | 41,563 | 160 | 260 |
| 4 | DR | Rockland | 2 | 37,500 | 38,249 | 176 | 217 |
| 5 | DR | Suffolk | 3.5 | 64,695 | 68,291 | 336 | 203 |
| 6 | DR | Westchester | 2 | 40,984 | 42,086 | 208 | 202 |
| 7 | DR | Genesee | 1 | 13,405 | 14,285 | 73 | 196 |
| 8 | DR | Jefferson | 2 | 38,988 | 40,155 | 208 | 193 |
| 9* | DR | Franklin | | 5,400 | | 28 | 193 |
| 10 | DR | Warren | 3 | 32,895 | 34,653 | 182 | 190 |
| 11 | DR | Suffolk | 2 | 40,869 | 41,985 | 224 | 187 |
| 12 | DR | Cayuga | 1 | 12,881 | 13,381 | 72 | 186 |
| 13 | DR | Delaware | 1 | 3,833 | 5,363 | 31 | 173 |
| 14 | DR | Cattaraugus | 1 | 8,179 | 8,254 | 48 | 172 |
| 15 | DR | Otsego | 1 | 6,126 | 7,127 | 42 | 170 |
| 16 | DR | Erie | 6 | 45,159 | 46,169 | 271 | 170 |
| 17* | DR | Saratoga | | 9,108 | | 58 | 157 |
| 18 | DR | Oswego | 1 | 14,700 | 14,989 | 96 | 156 |

/ See legend on page 4 of Appendix

| Program of | Type | County Where School District Located | Number of Teachers | Teacher Compensation | Total Cost | Number of Pupils | Per Pupil Cost |
|------------|------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 19 * | DR | Allegany | | | \$ 4,025 | 26 | \$155 |
| 20 | DR | Nassau | 6 | \$120,098 | 122,992 | 828 | 149 |
| 21 * | DR | Washington | | | 6,863 | 52 | 132 |
| 22 * | DR | Dutchess | | | 7,361 | 56 | 131 |
| 23 | DR | Orange | 2 | 34,817 | 35,648 | 274 | 130 |
| 24 | DR | Suffolk | 1 | 11,904 | 12,647 | 99 | 128 |
| 25 | DR | Oneida | 2 | 22,820 | 24,116 | 205 | 118 |
| 26 | DR | Clinton | 1 | 13,500 | 13,873 | 120 | 116 |
| 27 * | DR | Steuben | | | 5,734 | 51 | 112 |
| 28 | DR | Onondaga | 1 | 9,715 | 10,328 | 96 | 108 |
| 29 * | DR | Madison | | | 7,810 | 73 | 107 |
| 30 | DR | Seneca | 1 | 6,964 | 7,864 | 110 | 71 |
| 31 | DR | Niagara | 4 | 16,338 | 17,102 | 240 | 71 |
| 32 | DR | Chautauqua | 1 | 5,644 | 7,218 | 110 | 66 |
| 33 | SR | Suffolk | 3 | 63,156 | 63,671 | 384 | 166 |
| 34 | SR | Erie | 3.82 | 57,424 | 58,604 | 380 | 154 |
| 35 | SR | Albany | 3.2 | 51,681 | 55,552 | 365 | 152 |
| 36 | SR | Nassau | 2 | 33,359 | 34,790 | 288 | 121 |

| Program | Type of Program | County Where School District Located | Number of Teachers | Teacher Compensation | Total Cost | Number of Pupils | Per Pupil Cost |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------|----------------|
| 37 | CR | Rockland | 2 | \$50,243 | \$90,177 | 576 | \$157 |
| 38 | CR | Rockland | 2 | 3,899 | 19,755 | 233 | 85 |
| 39 | CR | Suffolk | 1 | 800 | 16,928 | 224 | 76 |
| 40 | DS | Nassau | 15 | 19,890 | 24,480 | 170 | 144 |
| 41 | DS | Rockland | 4 | 11,262 | 11,862 | 84 | 141 |
| 42 | DS | Jefferson | 8 | 15,245 | 20,458 | 176 | 116 |
| 43 | DS | Suffolk | 10 | 15,682 | 18,522 | 160 | 116 |
| 44 | DS | Suffolk | 5 | 13,347 | 14,746 | 128 | 115 |
| 45 | DS | Rockland | 3 | 5,292 | 5,491 | 48 | 114 |
| 46 | DS | Nassau | 30 | 36,550 | 39,201 | 470 | 83 |
| 47 | DS | Suffolk | 1 | 1,857 | 2,054 | 27 | 76 |
| 48 | DS | Nassau | 20 | 13,847 | 14,848 | 196 | 76 |
| 49 | DS | Tioga | 3 | 6,750 | 7,058 | 102 | 69 |
| 50 | DS | Oneida | 9 | 9,072 | 9,657 | 144 | 67 |
| 51 | DS | Erie | 10 | 10,680 | 11,278 | 171 | 66 |
| 52 | DS | Herkimer | 2 | 2,000 | 2,515 | 40 | 63 |
| 53 | DS | Cattaraugus | 1 | 1,785 | 1,870 | 32 | 58 |
| 54 | DS | Seneca | 2 | 2,555 | 3,045 | 55 | 55 |
| 55 | DS | Steuben | 1 | 1,000 | 1,122 | 23 | 49 |

| Program of Program | Type | County Where School District Located | Number of Teachers | Teacher Compensation | Total Cost | Number of Pupils | Per Pupil Cost |
|--------------------|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 56 | SS | Nassau | 9.67 | \$59,469 | \$60,819 | 380 | \$160 |
| 57 | SS | Westchester | 2 | 2,973 | 3,229 | 27 | 120 |
| 58 | SS | Nassau | 8 | 17,463 | 18,063 | 196 | 92 |
| 59 | SS | Suffolk | 5 | 14,152 | 14,373 | 168 | 86 |
| 60 | SS | Madison | 5 | 6,292 | 8,446 | 100 | 84 |
| 61 | SS | Nassau | 3 | 6,375 | 6,825 | 90 | 76 |
| 62 | SS | Westchester | 1 | 3,811 | 4,355 | 58 | 75 |
| 63 | SS | Erie | 9 | 14,884 | 15,092 | 220 | 69 |
| 64 | SS | Albany | 5 | 9,504 | 11,414 | 180 | 63 |
| 65 | CS | Rockland | 1 | 2,053 | 8,949 | 100 | 89 |
| 66 | CS | Suffolk | 1 | 2,167 | 27,588 | 392 | 70 |
| 67 | CS | Nassau | 2 | 4,014 | 17,559 | 261 | 67 |
| Totals | | | <u>243.19</u> | <u>\$1,247,334</u> | <u>\$1,477,949</u> | <u>11,313</u> | <u>\$130.64**</u> |

DR - Dual Control - Regular School Day
 SR - Simulator - Regular School Day
 CR - Commercial Driving School - Regular School Day
 DS - Dual Control - After School, Saturday, and Summer
 SS - Simulator - After School, Saturday, and Summer
 CS - Commercial Driving School - After School, Saturday, and Summer

* shared - services programs
 ** Average