



To all parents and/or guardians,

Congratulations on enrolling your child in a driver education course! This is an important step in a child's life. We would like to inform all families of what to expect throughout their Street Smarts course.

The first portion of drivers education is behind-the-wheel instruction. Students will complete 6 two-hour drive lessons (totaling 6 hours of observation and 6 hours of driving) that will meet at the location you registered your child. Within these lessons, our instructors will be taking your child through multiple areas and skillsets, so they may become a safe and confident driver. Listed below are the lessons we aim to get all students through, if they are safe to do so:

- Residential/city/parking
- Two and four lane highway, gravel roads
- Downtown/one-way streets/back in angle parking/parallel parking
- Interstate
- Review for final drive in all areas previously covered
- Final drive (Students will be tested on their driving skills in all areas listed above)

If there is a skill your child has not mastered during the lessons, the instructor will inform the student or parent. A parent/guardian will need to practice with the student to improve in these areas before the next scheduled lesson. If the skill is still unmastered, the instructor will continue to work with the student. This may cause your child to be unable to progress to another area or skill until this has improved.

The final drive lesson is a drive test. If your child does not perform well on this test, or has any traffic violations, our instructor will request the student is 'drive test required'. This means that the student is required to complete an additional drive test with the DOT before they can upgrade to a school permit or intermediate license. The road test with the DOT will check the student's driving skills in residential, business district and parking lot areas. This test is normally 10-20 minutes long. We highly recommend that more driving practice is done with a parent and/or guardian before a student is taken for this test.

The other portion of drivers education is classroom instruction. Students will need to complete a 30-hour online course, that will be provided the week before their class starts. **This course will need to be worked on concurrently with the drive lessons.** All classes and drives are required to be done within 45 days past the last class date that was listed on the website when you registered. If your child does not complete the online course and all six driving lessons within this time, we will not be able to enter your child's completion with the DOT. If your family qualifies for free/reduced driver's education, the school will not cover your child's fees again if the course needs to be retaken.

We work with students at all different skill levels, and will do our best to instruct and strengthen safe driving techniques. Please note that the DOT requires a parent/guardian to complete 20 hours of behind-the-wheel practice with their student. Students will have a better chance of success if they have most of these hours under their belt prior to driver's education. Additionally, practicing with your child in between lessons is a great way to ensure they can progress during their time with us. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your experience, please do not hesitate to let our office know.

Behind the Wheel Course Goals

- **Right-of-Way:** student understands, gives, and takes right-of-way correctly in all driving situations
- **Speed Control/Following Distance:** 0-5 MPH below speed limit, ≥ 3 second following distance
- **Lane Changes:** students use turn signal, check rearview, side mirrors, and blind spot
- **Parking:** students use turn signal, appropriate speed and steering, clearance checks between cars, vehicles are centered and square
- **Stopping:** Early, smooth braking, stopping behind crosswalks or appropriate stop line
- **Backing:** Left, right, and back head check, appropriate speed, steering correctly
- **Right and Left Turns:** student uses turn signal, brakes into turns with appropriate speed, turns into the correct lane
- **Vision:** student checks mirrors and speedometer every 10 seconds or less; sees, reads and understands all traffic signs, lights, road markings, and potential hazards
- **Merging and Exiting:** accelerates to speed limit and makes a safe lane change

State Policies

The Department of Transportation required all driver education companies to go to an electronic certification as of 1.1.19. Only Street Smarts and the D.O.T. can see this information. Once your child has completed driver education; the office will submit his/her completion with the D.O.T. within 15 business days after completion. The only way we will submit your child's information is if they complete these steps:

- Your child has completed 30 hours of classroom time.
- Your child has completed 6 drive lessons

State of Iowa's requirements to obtain an intermediate license or minor school license:

- Intermediate license: 16 years old and hold learner's permit for a minimum of 1 year.
- Minor School license: Hold learner's permit for 6 months and have child's school sign off on a school permit form

The Iowa Department of Transportation also requires that each student must drive with a parent/guardian for 20 hours (2 of those hours must be night driving). This requirement asks for you to practice those basic fundamentals that are being taught in the driving instruction. Your willingness to assist in this instruction will improve your student's overall driving ability. The following page has a helpful form that you may use to log how many hours you have completed with your student.

Our Policies

Our program follows the state guidelines as to classroom and behind the wheel content, both of which your student must successfully pass before becoming eligible for a school permit or intermediate license. To ensure that your student has the best possible instruction, the following classroom and driving rules will be followed:

- Students are required to follow all state and local laws as they pertain to driving regulations as well as the use of any prohibited substances.
- All school district codes of conduct will be adhered to according to the district policies and procedures.
- All students must be picked up from the driving portion on time (Unless your child is walking home). If the student is not picked up within 10 minutes of the driving lesson being completed, there will be a \$25 fee assessed.
- Your child will have 45 days to complete all instruction during the school year, or 30 days during the summer, or 14 days during winter break or spring break. If your child does not complete the online course within the time allotted, Street Smarts will be unable to submit their completion to the DOT and the course will need to be taken again in full. If your family qualifies for the free/reduced program, the school will not cover the fees a second time.

If your student fails to follow these rules, the parent will be contacted, and if necessary, Street Smarts reserves the right to remove the student from the program without a refund.

The driving portion of our program has your student behind the wheel for 6 hours with a trained Behind the Wheel instructor who will explore a wide range of traffic situations with your student. Once your student is assigned a drive time, it is important that they keep their scheduled time due to instructor and car availability. **If your child does not show up to a scheduled drive time, you will be assessed a \$40.00 fee. We limit only ONE rescheduled drive time for any absence. If more than ONE drive is missed, the student will be removed from our program with no refund.** This rescheduling fee of \$40 will be required to be paid to our office over the phone by a debit or credit card before their next scheduled drive. The missed drive time will be made up at the instructor's availability.

Refund/Return check fees:

- No refunds given after both the driving and classroom portions have begun.
- If the classroom portion, but not the driving portion has begun, there will be a fee of \$110.
- If the driving portion, but not the classroom portion has begun, there will be a fee of \$125.
- In the case of a returned e-check, there will be a \$40.00 fee assessed by Street Smarts. Balance will need to be paid by cash or credit card.
- For the winter and spring break classes, there will be a cancellation fee of \$100.00 if you cancel after drive times have been scheduled. For these special classes, we schedule drive times anywhere from 1 to 3 weeks in advance with the parent and/or guardian.

Cancellation/Transfer fees:

- A cancellation fee of \$50 will be charged if you choose to cancel out of a course within two weeks of the start date.
- A transfer fee of \$50 will be charged if you choose to transfer your child to another class or location within two weeks of the original start date.
- For winter and spring break classes, the following fees will be applied if any changes are made within two weeks of the course start date: \$100 transfer fee or \$100 cancellation fee.

