



## Bartlett High School-Drivers Education Parent Cheat Sheet

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The graduated licensing law requires you to spend 50 hours (including 10 at night) in the car with your teen behind the wheel prior to obtaining their license. Statistics prove that the new legislation has had a positive impact in lowering the number of crashes involving new drivers. **WHAT YOU DO MATTERS!!!**

Parental assistance complements the behind-the-wheel phase of Driver Education. Parents need to encourage students to drive at home while taking the course in school and after its completion. The parents' role is one of reinforcing the knowledge and skills introduced by the Driver Education Program. Keep in mind, 50 hours is a minimum state requirement. We believe that 50 hours is only a benchmark and that you the parent are the best judge of your child's progress. Experience is invaluable to your child during this exciting time in their time in high school. Students must fill out the record sheet times on page 29 of your GDL book. This should be completed after every driving experience.

We feel students can improve their perceptual and decision making skills **"thinking like a driver"** when they are passengers (**Passenger driving**) in a car. This can be done by having your teen verbalize what they are seeing and what they would do about the situations you encounter while driving. They can observe other drivers' tendencies and practice predicting other driver's actions. It may be a good idea for you to model your expectations of what you feel they should be verbalizing. It is difficult to improve perception and decision making skill when students have to concentrate on the physical skills of driving.

Teaching your teen how to drive takes patience and your full attention. Practice when you are both alert and ready to pay attention to each other.

### **Before you start:**

- Discuss with your teen the route you will be taking and skills they will be working on.
- Ask your teen to explain how to perform the skills they will be practicing.
- Adjust the vanity mirror on the passenger sun visor so you can use it as a review mirror.  
Also adjust the right outside mirror for your use while your teen is driving.

### **While your teen is driving:**

- Use a calm voice.
- Give simple and clear directions well in advance (e.g. "At the second intersection turn right", "cover the brake", "slow").
- Avoid terms with possible double meaning (e.g. say "that is correct" instead of "that is right")

### **If your teen does something incorrectly:**

- Ask your teen to move the car off the road and discuss the mistake calmly.

### **After the practice session:**

- Evaluate the session together.
- Give your teen a chance to point out their mistake before you do.
- Praise your teen for things they did correctly and mention how to improve.
- Record the session in the 50-hour log.

**For additional information on the Graduated Driver Licensing Program please refer to the Parent-Teen Driving Guide that can be found by going to [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) and look under Publications.**