



BEGINNER DRIVER EDUCATION

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Beginner Driver Education is being offered at Bluewater District School Board secondary schools to students 16 years of age or older. Students must have a G1 licence or be eligible to obtain one prior to completion of the classroom sessions to participate. The course fee is \$700.00 (**payable to Bluewater District School Board**).

Bluewater students will receive instruction using Ministry approved curriculum. Course content consists of 40 hours of Ministry of Transportation approved Beginner Driver Education (BDE) curriculum which includes:

20 hours classroom

10 hours home link (flexible) workbook

10 hours in-car instruction*

*driving a car equipped with dual controls.

Classes are *normally* held after school. Please visit http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/coned/driver_ed and choose your school for the course schedule. Parents are responsible for the student's trip home after class. The car and its occupants are adequately covered by insurance during the driving period.

Students who have successfully completed the course and provided all requested documentation will be "certified" electronically with the Ministry of Transportation within seven days of receipt of course marks provided by the Driving Instructor. **The student should request a Driver's Licence history which provides proof of successful completion and graduation from a BDE course, and is widely recognized by the insurance industry as proof of course completion. This request can only be made by the licence holder at a Driver and Vehicle Issuing Office upon payment of a \$12.00 fee.** BDE Graduates with a Driver's Licence History may be eligible for an insurance discount.

Minimum course enrolment is required. **Students will be notified immediately if a course is cancelled or full. We will ONLY contact you if you are NOT in the session you signed up for.** Students not accepted for a session will be given preference for the next session based on age and enrolment dates. The aim of the driver instruction course is to develop the knowledge, attitudes, habits and skills necessary for the safe operation of a motor vehicle. Students who successfully completed the course will have the background knowledge necessary for proper driving. However, they will need additional driving experience under parental guidance and direction.

Regular attendance is mandatory for both the classroom instruction and the in-car training. Missed classes must be rescheduled with your program provider. Failure to attend regularly may result in a student being dropped from the course and forfeiture of the course fee. **The Beginner Driver Education program must be completed within a twelve month period to be certified with the Ministry of Transportation.**

If you wish your son or daughter to take the Beginner Driver Education course, please complete an application form and submit (fax, e-mail, mail) together with payment to Bluewater District School Board, Community Education, Box 190 – 351 1st Ave N, Chesley, ON N0G 1L0 at least 2 weeks prior to the course start date. For more information, forms or to make payment visit http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/coned/driver_ed or contact Tanya McLean, Community Education Services Assistant at 1-800-661-7509 or drivereducation@bwdsb.on.ca or Fax 519-370-2974.

Revised: May 2018



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Frequently asked Questions

What happens on a snow day?

If buses are cancelled the in-class portion of Beginner Driver Education will also be cancelled for that day. Students will be advised by their instructor as to when the make-up class will take place.

How do I confirm I'm in the session?

Students will be notified **immediately** if a course is cancelled or full. We will **ONLY** contact you if you are **NOT** in the session you signed up for. Otherwise, assume you are in the session you signed up for and be there at the first class.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

Please direct all questions to the Community Education Department at 519-363-2014 ext 2067 or drivereducation@bwdsb.on.ca

Is there a payment plan?

We are able to set up a payment plan. We ask that all fees be paid by the time the in class portion is complete. Please contact the Community Education Department to discuss.

What happens if a session is full?

It is becoming more common for sessions to fill up. Please register early. Students not accepted for a session will be notified immediately and given preference for the next session based on age and enrolment dates.

What happens if I miss a class?

If you miss a class – talk to your instructor at the next class and they can help you set up a make-up. Usually you would pick up the missed class in the next session. You will still be able to complete your session and start your in car portion – you will need to make up the missed class in order to complete the course and be certified.

How long do I have to finish?

You have **1 year** from your first day in-class to complete the course – if the course is not completed in the 1 year time frame you will not be certified and you will not be refunded. There are **NO exceptions!!**

What kind of proof will I need for the insurance company?

The student should request a Driver's Licence history which provides proof of successful completion and graduation from a BDE course, and is widely recognized by the insurance industry as proof of course completion. This request can only be made by the licence holder at a Driver and Vehicle Issuing Office upon payment of a \$12.00 fee.