

To: School District Superintendents

From: Brian McGairty, Bureau Director *BM*
Office of Safe and Orderly Schools

Jonathan Tillman, Pupil Transportation Administrator *JT*
Office of Safe and Orderly Schools-Division of Pupil Transportation

Date: June 1, 2026

Subject: Application for Approval and State-Aid for Teaching Driver Education
2026-2027 Regular Session

Enclosed is an Application to the Mississippi Board of Education for approval and state-aid for teaching Driver Education (DE-1) for the 2026-2027 regular school session. As now required by Miss. Code Ann. 37-25-3, all secondary public schools must offer this course. Please distribute copies of these forms to the principals in the schools providing Driver Education during the 2026-2027 regular school session. If the district has multiple high schools, please submit all completed forms from the schools together, not separately, to the Division of Driver Education. Please ensure that the district follows the policies and procedures outlined in the Mississippi Driver Education Framework.

Please ensure that the district receives approval from the Division of Driver Education in the form of a letter and approved application from the Driver Education Administrator. This approval must be kept on file in the district. Failure to apply for approval from MDE will disqualify the district from receiving reimbursement for the driver education program at the end of the school year. In addition, a motor vehicle report (MVR) on all instructors must be submitted with the DE-1 application in order to obtain approval. Failure to submit the MVR with the DE-1 form will delay the approval of the application. Requisition for Reimbursement for Driver Education (DE-3), Summary of Students Completing Driver Education (DE-3A), and Driver Education Yearly Cost Report (DE-4) forms shall be submitted within ten (10) days of the last day of school for the 2026-2027 school year.

The DE-1 and the MVR must be completed and submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education no later than Wednesday, July 1, 2026. The DE-1 application may be found at <https://www.mdek12.org/OSOS/DEP>. Please email all completed forms to Jonathan Tillman, Pupil Transportation Administrator at jtillman@mdek12.org.

c: Dr. Paula A. Vanderford, Chief Accountability Officer, Office of Accountability