

Learner's Licensing Changes – Q & A + Key Messages

Nov. 2019

Key Messages:

- SGI is changing the way novice drivers acquire a learner's licence.
- Previously, a 15-year-old would have to wait until they were actively taking their High School Driver Education Program to be eligible for a learner's licence. Now, they only need be enrolled in a future class to be eligible for a learner's licence.
- This change reduces the time a 15-year-old would have to wait to qualify for a learner's licence, meaning they can get their driver's licence sooner after turning 16 once they complete driver training
- This will also result in more practice time behind the wheel (with a supervising driver) before the learner takes their driver's test, encouraging safer driving habits.
- Students are still subject to all of the same course requirements as before.
- If the student becomes unenrolled the licence is cancelled.

1. What's changing?

The specific change pertains to when a 15-year-old becomes eligible to write their learner's licence exam to acquire a learner's licence. Previously, they had to be actively taking the High School Driver Education Program. Due to course scheduling and the demand for driver training, there were times when students couldn't get into a class until well into their 15th year, meaning they couldn't get their driver's licence until well into their 16th year. Now, they only need to be enrolled in the program to be eligible for a learner's licence.

2. Who will this affect?

This change will only affect those drivers who are 15 years of age and are waiting to get into their High School Driver Education Program. Individuals who are 16 years of age and older can write the learner's exam at any point.

3. Why is this change being made?

The change is being made to reduce delays for novice drivers, and allow them to get more experience with a supervising driver, which is critical in learning how to drive safely. It was brought to our attention as a result of ongoing feedback from students, parents and educators.

4. Does this change apply everywhere?

Yes, this applies province wide.

5. When does the change take effect?

The change takes effect immediately.

6. How do students prove they are enrolled in a future High School Driver Education Program?

Students will need to have the principal, vice-principal or driver instructor sign the Signature Form for First Time Drivers ([available to print on the SGI website](#)), and bring the form with them when they go to write the tests. This will verify that the student has applied for the High School Driver Education Program. This form is also required as parental approval for any new driver under 18 years of age and is an acceptable document to prove Saskatchewan residency and a second identification document.

7. Does this mean that those students would spend less time doing in-class training?

No. Even if a student opts to self-study and write the learner's test prior to the start of their High School Driver Education Program they will still have to spend just as many hours in-class (30 hours) and in-car with the instructor (six hours) to complete the course.

8. Is there an added cost to get a learner's licence before starting the High School Driver Education Program?

To get a Class 7 learner's licence a student needs to pass the Basic Knowledge exam, the Sign Exam and a vision test. The cost of writing these exams at SGI before being in the High School Driver Education Program is \$25 (per attempt). The High School Driver Education Program is free. The cost of validating the licence is the same in both cases, \$100 for 5 years or \$25 per year.

9. What happens if the learner doesn't attend or complete the class they register for?

Their learner's licence would then be cancelled. There are processes in place to prevent any loopholes that would allow a student to keep their learner's licence without attending or completing the course.