

1 2023 RES-
2 IN SUPPORT OF STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS
3 TO MAKE DRIVER'S EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE
4

5 The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), similar to many school districts across the county,
6 state and the country, has seen a significant shift in the ways driver's education curriculum has been
7 delivered to students over the past 20 years. In 2003, Wisconsin Act 33 eliminated state categorical
8 aid to school districts which highly compromised districts' abilities to effectively deliver driver's
9 education. As a result, ultimately both the classroom and behind the wheel portions of driver's
10 education increasingly shifted out of the public schools and into private driving academies. Prior to
11 this shift, all students in public school had ready access to free or very low cost driver's education and
12 training that was required for both their temporary driving permits as well as their subsequent driving
13 licenses.

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15 Currently, very few, if any, districts in Wisconsin offer a bona fide driver's education program through
16 their regular curriculum or programming. Students in MMSD currently have one of three options in
17 pursuit of acquiring their driver's license:
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- 19 1. Enroll in a private driving school or technical college and pay at minimum \$500 out of pocket,
20 for classroom and behind the wheel instruction;
- 21 2. Take advantage of a program offered by Dane County and Madison School and Community
22 Recreation (MSCR) through Cooperative Education Service Agency 2 (CESA2) which offers
23 the classroom instruction as well as behind the wheel instruction; **ARE THESE ONLY MMSD**
24 **STUDENTS?**
- 25 3. Wait until they turn 18 and test for their license without any of the aforementioned training.
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27 Dane County recognizes the importance of driver's education and has funded a scholarship program
28 to remove financial barriers to driver's education to young people throughout Dane County. In addition
29 to MMSD students, the County funded scholarship program is available to students in the Cambridge
30 School District, the De Forest Area School District, the Deerfield Community School District, the Marshall
31 School District, the McFarland School District, the Middleton-Cross Plains School District, the Monona
32 Grove School District, the Mount Horeb Area School District, the Oregon School District, the Sun Prairie
33 Area School District, the Verona Area School District, the Waunakee Community School District, and the
34 Wisconsin Heights School District.
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37 The program offered through Dane County, MSCR, and CESA2 is available to a limited number of
38 students living with lower incomes and also has severe limitations due to a lack of teachers available
39 to provide behind the wheel instruction. **DO WE HAVE NUMBERS?** This lack of teachers often
40 creates a significant backlog of students who have completed the in-class portion of driver's education
41 but have to wait to take the behind the wheel portion of the curriculum.
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43 The shortage of behind the wheel instructors results from a variety of factors including Wisconsin
44 Department of Public Instruction (DPI) licensure requirements that CESA 2, as a public schools entity,
45 must adhere to, as well as pay rates. For the summer of 2023, CESA 2 has been able to find new
46 teachers and thereby get students through the behind the wheel portion, but the licensing
47 requirements imposed by DPI remain a barrier in program delivery.
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49 Regarding the other options for young people to acquire their driver's licenses, while private driving
50 schools do not have to adhere to the licensing requirements imposed by DPI, the costs associated
51 with private driving schools and technical colleges still present a financial barrier for many. The option
52 to wait until one is 18 puts on hold the opportunity for 16 and 17-year-olds to effectively engage in
53 many aspects of their life including employment, extracurricular and social activities.

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55 All of these factors compromise MMSD's ability to prepare its students to be college, career, and
56 community ready.

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58 Transportation access and equity has long been a priority for the City of Madison Education
59 Committee ("the Committee"). Over the last year, the Committee has received presentations from
60 representatives from a variety of organizations with experience in driver's education programming to get
61 a better understanding of the landscape of driver's education for Madison area youth, including MSCR,
62 CESA 2, Operation Fresh Start, and the Sun Prairie Area School District. The Committee has prioritized
63 this issue as an area where it – as a collaborative committee of Madison, Dane County, and MMSD
64 policymakers– can have a unique and necessary impact on this important issue.

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66 To guide us in this work, the Committee recognizes:

- 67 ● Expanding access to driver's education is a racial equity imperative.
- 68 ● Expanding access to driver's education is an economic justice imperative.
- 69 ● Expanding access to driver's education supports public safety.
- 70 ● Expanding access to driver's education enriches the social and cultural experience of youth
71 and families because it increases opportunities to be involved in community activities.

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73 The Committee supports the following goals:

- 74 ● Every young person in Dane County is able to access driver's education regardless of ability
75 to pay.
- 76 ● Driver's Education, including behind-the-wheel instruction, is a part of the core high school
77 curriculum.

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79 The Committee supports the following strategies to achieve the above goals:

- 80 ● City of Madison and Dane County and other municipal funding and advocacy to support MMSD
81 expansion of access to driver's education throughout Dane County through the scholarship
82 program. **ONLY MMSD STUDENTS? CAN OTHER DISTRICTS PARTICIPATE?**
- 83 ● MMSD creating incentives to attract and retain driver's education teachers.
- 84 ● The State of Wisconsin must re-examine current requirements for public instruction of driver's
85 education to address the instructor shortage and expand access to driver's education. This
86 includes, but is not limited to, addressing licensing requirement discrepancies between public
87 and private driver's education instructors and reducing barriers to licensing/certification.

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89 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors joins the Committee**
90 **in supporting its goals to expand access to driver's education to all young persons regardless of the ability**
91 **to pay and make driver's education, including behind the wheel instruction, part of the core high school**
92 **curriculum;**

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94 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports both City of Madison**
95 **and Dane County funding in the 2024 county budget to address the unmet need for scholarships in the for**
96 **X-NUMBER???** of students via the CESA2 program. **HOW DO YOU WANT THIS TO READ?**

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98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges the Madison Metropolitan
99 School District to create incentives to attract and retain driver's education teachers.
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101 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin
102 Department of Public Instruction to ~~change administrative rules~~ ARE THEU RULES OR STATUTES? To
103 address the licensing requirement discrepancies between public and private driver's education instructors
104 and reduce barriers to licensing/certification including but not limited to those found in Wis. Admin Code
105 Chapters Trans 105, PI 21, and PI 34.080.
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107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board calls on all state and local leaders to work
108 together to expand access to driver's education so it is available and accessible to all students in Dane
109 County.
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111 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers; the Dane
112 County delegation of the Wisconsin State Legislature; Dr. Jill Underly, Wisconsin State Superintendent of
113 Public Instruction; City of Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and the Madison Common Council; and
114 Lisa M. Kvistad, the MMSD Interim Superintendent and the MMSD Board of Education; all superintendents
115 and school boards throughout Dane County, and the Mayors and City Councils all cities in Dane County.
116 ANY OTHERS? THROUGHOUT DANE COUNTY?
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