

MISSION STATEMENT

By David Benjamin Beranek Co-Owner & Founder of Classic Driving School dba. Training
Wheels Driver Education

Please take 5-10 minutes to read these words speaking the TRUTH.

This Affects YOU and YOUR CHILD.

OUR MISSION IS TO SAVE LIVES AND TO ELIMINATE TEEN CRASHES. IN DOING SO, WE MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE AND IN OUR POWER TO GIVE THE HIGHEST SUPPORT TO THE PARENTS OF NEW TEEN DRIVERS AS WELL AS THE STUDENTS. WE NEED TO ALLOW THE CLASSROOM EDUCATION TO BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH ONLINE CLASSROOMS IF PARENTS AND STUDENTS CHOOSE TO DO SO, BASED ON THEIR FAMILY'S INDIVIDUAL LIFESTYLE OR CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CHOICE SHOULD BE UP TO THE FAMILY ON WHAT BEST SUITS THEIR NEEDS. IT SHOULD NOT BE UP TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR ANY GOVERNMENT TO TAKE GOD GIVEN RIGHTS AWAY FROM A FAMILY. IT IS AN ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE TO RECEIVE A LICENSE TO DRIVE A MOTORIZED VEHICLE. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT THE STATES RIGHT TO RESTRICT THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE THE EDUCATION TO ONLY IN-CLASSROOM SETTINGS. IN MY OPINION, GOVERNMENT HAD ITS PLACE AND CONCERNING THIS ISSUE, THEY HAVE STEPPED WAY OVER THE LINE. MANY VOTED AGAINST ON-LINE DRIVERS EDUCATION BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT TRUE VALUES IN REGARDS TO RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT AND INTEGRITY

CANNOT BE LEARNED IN THE HOME WHICH I THINK IS LUDICRUS. IT IS THE PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO INSTILL VALUES AND A TEACHER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REINFORCE THOSE COMMON VALUES. AN ON-LINE DRIVER EDUCATION CURRICULEM IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO HAVE AS A CHOICE FOR FAMILIES TO MAKE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, I SUPPORT THE STATE OF MINNESOTA'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN ENFORCING THE CURRICULUM APPROVED BY ON-LINE MEANS TO THE HIGHEST REGARD.

APPROVED ON-LINE CLASSROOMS WILL MEET THE CURRICULUM STANDARDS AS WELL AS SECURITY MEASURES TO ADMINISTER THE HIGHEST CUTTING EDGE QUALITY IN REGARDS TO THE DELIVERY OF ON-LINE DRIVERS EDUCATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT I WOULD ONLY SUPPORT THE STATE OF MINNESOTA'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN APPROVING ON-LINE DRIVERS EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT MEET OR EXCEED THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN CURRICULUM AND SECURITY MEASURES.

First and foremost I would like to state that I am embarrassed about how our Minnesota State Senate AND the some members in the K-12 Education Policy and Oversight committee responded to and administered to the topic of Teen Driver Education so lackadaisical and carefree. How a decision can be made about the safety of our teens in Minnesota in such a horrific way is beyond me and it was sickening, disgusting and disturbing at the highest level. I am also embarrassed that another fellow Driving School owner can act in such a selfish, rude and irresponsible way causing severe devastation among our teen population. The self-serving need in this case was so evident and repulsive to me, that I wanted to leave the room. As much as I understood the passion, is government supposed to play God and tell the parents of Minnesota

that they don't have a right to choose what is best for their teen when it comes to values of responsibility, respect and attitude or how the education is delivered?

Please Continue

By Scrolling

Down.

The state of Minnesota already requires a teen to practice 30 hours with their parent or legal guardian who holds a valid license and please make note that I fully support this statute as a minimum standard only. As it stands now, Minnesota State requires new teen drivers to pass a State administered permit test with at least 80% and this test is taken after the student has had 30 hours of classroom training. If the students do not pass this test and also enroll in 6 hours of Behind the Wheel instruction with a state approved provider than they do not receive their permits. So it is in the students' best interest to receive this information and I also believe that the parents of Minnesota do not want their children to die, so it makes sense that parents would want to be more knowledgeable and would want to be more involved with Traffic Safety Education because, hello... they have to practice for a minimum of 30 hours together during the permit phase. And if parents are teaching the wrong thing then it defeats the purpose of classroom driver's education. It is a fact that the majority of practice time is by far done with the parents as it stands. In my 10 years of Traffic Safety Instruction administered to teens and to the parents of teens I believe and would testify as fact that parents have the most influence in the way their teen compiles an attitude toward traffic safety. It is the Traffic Safety School that needs to reinforce and perfect safe defensive driving skills to save injuries and lives. With my past experience in saving lives in regards to teaching traffic safety to thousands of students and parents within the state of Minnesota, I believe it is in the absolute best interest of a new teen driver and to all parents in Minnesota that this law be passed. The bottom line is that by passing this law lives will be saved and injuries can be prevented. The real question is not, "should we pass this law?", but more importantly "how are we going to let families know that this is an option?" This law will allow the parents of Minnesota to become more educated and to be more involved with their new teen drivers' life in regards to Traffic Safety." Parents have to be more educated and it is in the Department of Public Safety's best interest to coordinate and facilitate the means necessary to promote a healthy atmosphere that contains the flexibility, communication and collaboration desperately needed among the parents, teens and the Driving schools in the State of Minnesota. It is absolutely necessary to give the teens and parents the best education that fits their type of lifestyle to promote a safer teen driver. It is the only way, and it is the responsibility as citizens of the Great State of Minnesota and as a people to make happen.

Cont.....

Ladies and Gentleman:

My name is David Benjamin Beranek, Jr. and I own a driving school in the New Hope area and the Rogers area and I support allowing teens to access classroom driver education via the internet. This would only be an option and not a mandate. Traditional classrooms would continue to be available and six hours of behind the wheel training would still be a minimum requirement for teens under 18 years of age. If many are concerned with a students' performance in the morning, which I believe might include some individuals affiliated with or apart of the teachers union as being a part of the "many", (unless the some care more about themselves then their students) than shouldn't we all also be concerned with a students' performance in after-school activities? Especially in an academic Drivers Education setting when a childes' future life is at stake. It is statistically accurate that fatality rates in regards to new teen drivers are over-represented in numbers do to several factors. One factor is that you cannot teach someone if they do not want to learn or are not capable of learning. The lack of student awareness is just as relevant in afterschool activities as it is during the normal school day in regards to student sleep deprivation or mal nourishment. Simply put, on-line classroom availability would save lives by allowing new teen drivers to take the course with the flexibility needed to provide full attention along with added parental communication. This will allow a driving school to place more emphasis on the actual behind the wheel laboratory work and parental involvement. Many students are not focused at the highest level possible in the classroom setting do to being sleep deprived and in need of nutrition (they are hungry from a long day at school). As a facilitator, instructor, mentor, or teacher, I believe that we have common ground in believing that you cannot teach someone who does not want to learn or who is incapable of learning.

We must give the parents and students of Minnesota an option that makes sense for their lifestyles. This will save lives and reduce injuries. Give Minnesota students a chance to survive. This would also allow parents to be more a part of their lives in regard to traffic safety. This would allow a driving school to place a larger amount of effort in educating parents in the importance of traffic safety since, more often than not, new teen drivers will drive just like their parents anyway but without the life experiences that parents already have. The bottom line is that by passing this law, many lives will be saved and the safety of our new teen drivers will be the top priority as it should have always been anyway for all driving schools. We are not the

driving school that puts a personal gain upon a child's life. We are the driving school with many years of experience that knows what will work and what will not work. As a driving school owner, I know we must be able to change and flex with the changing delivery methods. The Department of Public Safety must approve any internet programming. Regardless of what method is used. Traditional bricks and mortar classrooms, correspondence courses, or on-line courses, all methods must meet the curriculum content standards required here in Minnesota.

Due to the increased access of classroom to some students, we may find more teens participating in behind the wheel training versus waiting until they are 18 because the educational requirement is no longer valid. This of course would mean that more individuals would be able to receive the education so desperately needed in regards to traffic safety.

Behind the wheel training has always been where our greatest educational impact lies. But because of the overhead cost involved in driver's education, the state of MN only requires 6 hours of behind the wheel training when students need more. Unfortunately, if our safety standards are so low in MN, than parents have to step up to the plate and be involved more with their students in the entire Drivers Ed. process. This includes educating and refreshing themselves in traffic safety with their new teen driver. On-line classrooms will give common ground as well as bring an incentive to the table in helping each other create the highest standards in regards to traffic safety that MN has ever seen.

Please support the Bills HF575 and SF766.

Thank you so much and God Bless.

P.S. I also believe that our current government might be trying to wipe capitalism off the face of this earth. Does our Constitution mean anything anymore? Do values, ethics, integrity and standards mean anything anymore?

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