



KEAN UNIVERSITY

February 27, 2017

Association of National Stakeholders in Traffic Safety Education
Brett Robinson, Secretariat
Vice President, Highway Safety Services, LLC
1434 Trim Tree Road
Indiana, PA 15701

Dear Mr. Robinson:

On behalf of your agency, Troy Costales and Michael Calvin visited New Jersey on January 10-11, 2017 to provide technical assistance on Driver Education in New Jersey. They met with several Stakeholders on updating and improving the current program. This outreach effort was requested by Director Gary Poedubicky, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, to further coordination between state and local agencies that are responsible for the delivery of Driver Education.

The Review Team met with several representatives who presented information about agency involvement in Driver Education. The following assessment was made by the reviewers, based on the presentations and informal discussions among the representatives: (1) The Division of Highway Safety maintains a visionary approach of endorsing the national movement of teen driver safety research, due to their affiliation with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). (2) A strong opportunity exists for New Jersey State agencies to formally establish a management team for Driver Education. (3) Many stakeholders and advocates including the Teen Safe Driving Coalition, New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, and Driving School Association of New Jersey already cosponsor several statewide initiatives for teen drivers, parents, and law enforcement officials. (4) These agencies and groups are passionate and committed to the future advancement of Driver Education in New Jersey.

Based on the assessment information, the Reviewers had brilliantly designed a program model and corresponding tools for adoption in New Jersey. The structure consists of three levels: (1) State level management team, (2) advisory committee, and (3) working groups. The mission of the ***Driver Education Management Team (DEMT)*** will be to formalize working partnerships on the state level through a formal Memorandum of Understanding. Expectations are to synchronize the delivery of BTW and classroom curriculum, address instructor qualifications and re-certifications, link driver education to the licensing process, discuss potential needs including but not limited to the legislative agenda, administrative rules, and future actions, data evaluation, creation of a ten year action plan, as well build an understanding of the delegated authority attributed to stakeholder agencies. These actions are expected to be accomplished

through a series of “short-lived” (3) *Working Groups* in the designated areas. The (2) *Driver Education Advisory Committee (DEAC)*, consisting of front-line delivery partners, will serve as a test-bed, delivery channel, and advisory voice for the *Management Team*. Lastly, Advocates will serve as liaisons on both *DEAC* and *DEMT Working Groups* to offer assistance and guidance for the overall program.

In addition to implementing the recommended model, *DEMT* will oversee creation of the *New Jersey Driver Education Resource Library (NJDERL)* of education resources, “comparative data documents”, and “functional data” to support the State Driver Education program (i.e. compiling licensing numbers, safety fund information, instructor criteria, law documents, teen driver crash statistics, and fact sheets for model guidelines). Also, *DEMT* and *DEAC* leadership will continue to promote discussions on future advancement of Driver Education in New Jersey.

In closing, I am highly appreciative of the technical knowledge that was shared, by the team, with the Division of Highway Safety. While Driver Education is not a mandated program in our state, the model enables our State to better coordinate partnerships and adequately plan for future advancement of teen driver safety in New Jersey. If you have further questions about this testimony, please contact me at 908-737-3653. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Claudia Knezek

Dr. Claudia Knezek, New Jersey Traffic Safety Program Researcher
School of Natural Sciences