




STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE  
SECRETARY

DATE: June 10, 2022

TO: NC Public School and Commercial Driver Education Instructors

FROM: Wayne Goodwin, DMV Commissioner  


SUBJECT: Driver Education Student "Eye Checks" (Restricted Instruction Permit SBTS-800) Clarification

On February 17, 2022, NC DMV sent a letter reminding schools of the current "Eye Check" procedures. The below information is provided for further clarification of the policy.

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles is responsible for vision and physical condition screenings, also referred to as "Eye or Vision Checks", prior to the issuance of a Restricted Instruction Permit. The process begins with Driver Education Schools/Instructors coordinating with their local School Bus and Traffic Safety Driver Education Program Specialist (DEPS) to schedule appointments for students prior to behind the wheel training. Appointments are scheduled as far in advance as feasible and are primarily conducted during the classroom portion of Driver Education.

If a student misses the vision and physical condition screening, the Driver Education Instructor should contact the DEPS to schedule a make-up day. If the student also misses the make-up day, they will need to visit a Driver License Office to complete the vision screening. However, if medical issues are annotated on the Restricted Instruction Permit, the student must be screened by the DEPS.

When a student fails the vision screening, they will be given a Vision Specialist Form (DL-77) to take to an eye doctor who will determine if they need corrective lenses. Once the form is completed by the eye doctor, the student will return it to the DEPS or Driver License Office for completion of the Restricted Instruction Permit.

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When classes are conducted virtually, instructors should coordinate with a DEPS to conduct the vision and physical condition screening. If a student misses their scheduled screening, they will need to visit their local Driver License Office if no medical issues are annotated on the Restricted Instruction Permit. If medical issues are annotated on the Restricted Instruction Permit, the student must be screened by the DEPS.

***When the COVID-19 State of Emergency is lifted, all Commercial Driver Education Schools, schools must return to in-person classroom instruction per NC Administrative Code 19A 031 .0307, Course of Instruction. At this time, we have no knowledge of when the State of Emergency will be lifted, but it is important to be prepared to stay in compliance with the law.***

If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact School Bus and Traffic Safety Manager, Paul Dlouhy [pmdlouhy@ncdot.gov](mailto:pmdlouhy@ncdot.gov).