SD Behind the Wheel Standards

IC 1.0 In-car Standard One: Preparing to Operate a Vehicle

1.1 Preparations to Operate Vehicle. The student will recognize the visible space around the vehicle, the necessity of making routine vehicle checks and adjustments prior to and after entering the vehicle, identifies the location of alert and warning symbol lights, identifies, and understands advanced driver-assistance system safety features, understands the operation of vehicle control and safety devices, and is aware of vehicle weight concepts when braking, accelerating, and steering.

1.2 Judgment of Vehicle to Roadway Position. The student will recognize and analyze the standard and personal vehicle guides or reference points relationship to roadway position and vehicle placement.

IC 1.1 Preparations to Operate Vehicle. The student will recognize the visible space around the vehicle, the necessity of making routine vehicle checks and adjustments prior to and after entering the vehicle, identifies the location of alert and warning symbol lights, understands the operation of vehicle control and safety devices, and is aware of vehicle weight concepts when braking, accelerating, and steering.

1.1.1 Vehicle Operating Space. The student will:

a. Identify the visual limitation to the front, rear, left side, and right side of the vehicle;
b. Demonstrate the limited visual view in the rear-view mirror;
c. Demonstrate the traditional and enhanced mirror view settings for the rear and side view mirrors.

1.1.2 Getting Ready to Drive. The student will:

a. Prepare physically and mentally to use vehicle;
b. Approach the vehicle with awareness;
c. Check outside and inside of vehicle before opening the door;
d. Lock doors;
e. Adjust head restraints, seat position, mirrors, safety restraints, steering wheel position;
f. Check all occupants for safety belt use; and
g. Be able to demonstrate effective meaning and usage of all gauges.

1.1.3 Starting the Vehicle. The student will:

a. Select proper gear for starting;
b. Secure brake;
c. Recognize alert lights for safety accessories;
d. Demonstrate proper use of ignition starting device;
e. Demonstrate ability to select and use appropriate accessories;
f. Give an example of a warning light for engine or system accessories;
g. Make appropriate gear selection for movement; and
h. Put headlights on - day and night.

1.1.4 Placing Vehicle in Motion. The student will:

a. Visually identify open space to enter before moving from brake to accelerator;
b. Communicate to other users;
c. Place the vehicle into motion smoothly; and
d. Recognize that too much acceleration affects vehicle body pitch toward the rear.

1.1.5 Stopping Vehicle in Motion. The student will:
a. Search effectively ahead of the vehicle to determine braking needs;
b. Use controlled braking efficiently with heel of foot on floorboard;
c. Apply a firm squeezing braking force at the beginning of the braking process;
d. Bring the vehicle to a smooth stop by squeezing off brake;
e. Recognize that too much braking action affects vehicle body pitch toward the front;
f. Ease pressure off brake during last two seconds of braking to ease pitch of vehicle;
g. Check the rear zone/space before, during and after braking actions.

1.1.6 Steering. The student will:
a. Turn head and visually target in the direction of intended path of travel prior to turning;
b. Use a target, sightline and path of travel to determine steering entry and return;
c. Use a balanced hand position on the wheel (9-3 or 8-4);
d. Recognize that too much speed and steering affects vehicle body roll toward the opposite side of vehicle;
e. Use the hand-over-hand, hand-to-hand or one hand for reverse methods effectively; and
f. Visually check the rear-view mirror, side view mirrors and mirror blind spot areas.

1.1.7 Securing the Vehicle. The student will:
a. Stop the vehicle in a safe and legal position;
b. Shift into appropriate gear before releasing brake;
c. Visually check traffic flow before opening door; and
d. Lock doors and/or secure any alarm system.

IC 1.2. Judgment of Vehicle to Roadway Position. The student recognizes and analyzes the standard and personal reference points relationship to roadway position and vehicle placement.

1.2.1 Right Side of Vehicle. The student will:
a. Determine when the vehicle is positioned within 3-6 inches of the curb or a lane line; and
b. Determine when the vehicle is positioned within 2-3 feet of the curb or a lane line.

1.2.2 Left Side of Vehicle. The student will:
a. Determine when the vehicle is positioned within 3-6 inches of the curb or a lane line.

1.2.3 Front of Vehicle. The student will:
a. Determine when the front bumper is positioned even with the stop line or curb line.

1.2.5 Front Turning Point of Vehicle. The student will:
a. Determine where on the road the front is positioned for turning left; and
b. Determine where on the road the front is positioned for turning right.

1.2.6 Rear Turning Point of Vehicle. The student will:
a. Determine where on the road the rear is positioned for backing left; and
b. Determine where on the road the rear is positioned for backing right.

1.2.7 Application of Principles. The student will:
a. Demonstrate vehicle placement within typical lane positions; and
b. Demonstrate vehicle placement within the lane when backing and turning.

IC 2.0 In-car Standard Two: Introducing Traffic Entry and Intersection Approach Skills

2.1 Visualization of Intended Travel Path
2.2 Searching Intended Travel Path

IC. 2.1. Visualization of Intended Travel Path. The student utilizes critical thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving skills to operate the vehicle and perform basic maneuvers in controlled risk environments.

2.1.1 Target Area. The student will:
a. Locate the target area and evaluate the line of sight or path of travel conditions
b. Identify the traffic problems and elements in and near the target area; and determine best approach speed and lane position.

IC. 2.2 Searching Intended Travel Path. The student utilizes critical thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving skills to operate the vehicle and perform basic maneuvers in controlled risk environments.

2.2.1 Divide Focal and Mental Attention Between Intended Target, Travel Path, and Other Tasks. The student will:
a. Search with focal vision from target area to another location and back to target area;
b. Search with focal vision within ½ second time frames; and
c. Use active searching to allow the brain to perceive information.

2.2.2 Target Area to Searching Areas. The student will:
a. Search to the target area to evaluate its conditions and determine entry speed and position;
b. Search for line of sight or path of travel changes affecting the approach to the target area;
c. Approach the target area, while continually re-evaluating risks in the immediate 4-8 second travel path; and
d. As you approach the target area, search for your new target area and new travel path.

2.2.3 Know How to Judge Space in Seconds. The student will:
a. Search 20-30 seconds ahead to identify potential problems;
b. Visualize the space the vehicle will occupy at least 12-15 seconds ahead;
c. Search 8-12 seconds ahead to identify an alternate path of travel;
d. Continually evaluate the 4-8 second immediate path; and
e. Make speed and/or lane position adjustments when the search areas cannot be maintained.

2.2.4 Detect Changes to Line of Sight or Path of Travel. The student will:
a. Evaluate modification in the ability to see or maintain a travel path; and
b. Recognize a line of sight or path of travel change, then evaluate other zones/spaces for speed and lane adjustments.

2.2.5 Identify Open, Closed or Changing Zones/Spaces. The student will:
a. Identify the intended travel path for open, closed or changing conditions; and
b. Evaluate open, closed or changing conditions for speed and lane position adjustments.

2.2.6 Searching Intersections. The student will:

a. Search for open zones/space to the left, front and right, when approaching an intersection (every intersection is a zone change);
b. Evaluate closed or changing zones/spaces and make necessary speed and/or lane position adjustments, when approaching an intersection; and
c. Search for open zones/spaces to the left, front and right, before entering an intersection.

2.2.7 Searching Into Curves and Over Hill Crest. The student will:

a. Search the line of sight and path of travel through the curve or over the hill crest for possible closed or changing status of your path of travel, when the target area is a curve or a hill crest; and
b. Evaluate the line of sight, path of travel for appropriate speed and lane position adjustments, before entering a curve or a hill crest.

IC 3.0 In-car Standard Three: Developing Visual and Mental Perception for Vehicle Control Tasks

3.1 Speed Control
3.2 Lane Position Selection
3.3 Rear Zone Searching and Control
3.4 Following Time and Space
3.5 Communication and Courtesy
3.6 Use a Problem-Solving Strategy (i.e., SIPDE, IPDE)

IC. 3.1 Speed Control.

3.1.1 Selection for Ongoing Conditions. The student will:

a. Select travel speeds based upon driver, vehicle, legal, roadway, and environmental limitations; and
b. Make speed adjustments based on driver processing information, and limitations.

3.1.2 After Seeing Changes in Line of Sight or Path of Travel. The student will:

a. Recognize a closed zone/space (a red light or stopped traffic), adjust speed to arrive as the zone/space opens;
b. Avoid using acceleration into a closed or changing zone/space; and
c. Adjust speed to maintain or establish an open zone/space when your ability to see a line of sight or path of travel is reduced.

3.1.3 After Seeing a Speed Limit Sign. The student will:

a. Adjust speed to meet driver, vehicle, legal, roadway, and environmental limitations.

3.1.4 Speed Control While Approaching Curves and Hills. The student will:

a. Establish appropriate speed on approach, apex, and exit.

IC. 3.2 Lane Position Selection.

3.2.1 Lane Position. The student will:

a. Select the appropriate lane position for space management, legal requirements, and destination.

3.2.3 Lane position usage while driving straight ahead, parking, and turning around. The student will:

a. Select a lane position to give best separation from closed or changing zones/space; and
b. Demonstrate ability to place vehicle in appropriate lane position.

3.2.5 Lane position usage while approaching curves and hill crests. The student will:

a. Establish the appropriate lane position on approach, apex, and exiting.

IC. 3.3 Rear Zone Searching and Control.

3.3.2 Inside Rearview Mirror Usage. The student will:

a. Search to the rear after seeing a change to your line of sight or path of travel;
b. Search to the rear before and after making a turn or a stop;
i. Search to the rear before making speed adjustments;
j. Search to the rear before making lane position adjustment; and
k. Search to the rear before and after making a lane change.

3.3.3 Outside Side View Mirrors and Mirror Blind Spot Checks. The student will:

a. Check the side view mirror before adjusting a lane position in that direction;
b. Visually check mirror blind spot after side view mirror use, before moving the steering wheel; and
c. Check the side view mirror before adjusting a lane position in that direction.

3.3.4 Evaluate Condition to the Rear. The student will:

a. Determine if the rear zone/space is an open, closed, or changing condition; and
b. Determine the appropriate speed or lane adjustment needed when rear zone/space is closed or changing.

IC. 3.4 Following Time and Space.

3.4.1 Closure Rate on Approach. The student will:

a. Approach the vehicle in front gradually, avoiding a fast closure rate.

3.4.3 Moving at Same Speed – Maintaining Proper Following Distance. The student will:

a. Work to maintain appropriate following distance when following another vehicle; and
b. Adjust speed or lane position if appropriate following distance is difficult to maintain.

3.4.4 When Stopping Behind Vehicles. The student will:

a. When stopped behind a vehicle, be able to see the rear tires touching the pavement ahead; and
b. When stopped behind a vehicle without visibility to the rear, be able to see the driver ahead in their side view mirror (no-zone).

IC. 3.5 Communication and Courtesy.

3.5.1 Technique. The student will:

a. Use turn signal before turning right or left;
b. Use headlights when visibility is limited
c. Use horn appropriately to make others aware of your presence; and
d. Use vehicle speed and lane position to communicate the driver's intention.

3.5.2 Timing. The student will:

a. Put turn signal on at least five seconds prior to moving.

IC. 3.6 Use a Problem-Solving Strategy (i.e., SIPDE, IPDE).

3.6.1 Search for a change to your line of sight and/or to your path of travel. The student will:

a. Search for restrictions to your intended path of travel.

3.6.2 Evaluate your other zones/spaces for risk. The student will:

a. Search related zones; and
b. Look for alternate path of travel.

3.6.3 Execute an Adjustment. The student will:

a. Select and apply the best

i. Speed control;
ii. Lane position; and
iii. Communication for the conditions.

IC 4.0 In-car Standard Four: Assessment of Driver Performance

4.1. Driver Assessment. The student enrolled in a certified driver education program will be able to successfully demonstrate the key core behavioral patterns while performing the recommended procedures on a designated assessment route.

4.2. Assessment of Vehicle Safety Technology. The student enrolled in a certified driver education program will be able to properly use and understand available vehicle safety technology.

IC. 4.1 The student enrolled in a certified driver education program will be able to successfully demonstrate the key core behavioral patterns while performing the following procedures.

4.1.1 Precision Turns. The student will:
a. Demonstrate proper side position;
b. Demonstrate the forward position;
c. Search intersections left, front, and right to determine open zones/spaces; and
d. Look into the turn before turning the steering wheel.

4.1.2 Approach to Intersections. The student will:
a. Establish and maintain proper lane usage and speed control; and
b. Demonstrate and use legal stop with appropriate space, if applicable
i. Pulling forward for vision; and
ii. Stopping behind the stop line to give space for a large truck turning.

4.1.3 Timing Arrival for Open Zone. The student will:
a. See condition of traffic light; adjust speed;
b. See closed front zone; adjust speed to reduce closure rate and to arrive in an open zone; and
c. Adjust speed to have at least one open side zone/space.

4.1.4 Precision Lane Change. The student will:
a. Evaluate zones and mirror blind spots;
b. Move to correct lane position
c. Make final mirror check and final blind spot check;
d. Enter new lane into correct lane position;
e. Decide on best lane position for conditions;
f. Evaluate rear zones; and
g. Use proper communication.

4.1.5 Approach to Hill Crest and Curves. The student will:
a. See hill or curve in target area;
b. Check all zones for options;
c. Establish effective speed control;
d. Best lane position for approaching the hill crest; and
e. Select best lane position for curve.

4.1.6 Getting On/Off Limited Access Highways, if applicable. The student will:

a. Adjusting speed on entrance ramp for maximum searching time and options;
b. Evaluate gap to enter;
c. Effective speed on acceleration lane; and
d. Getting off: plan ahead, test brakes.

4.1.7 Backing Techniques. The student will:

a. Effective searching prior to and while backing;
b. Effective use of brake for speed control; and
c. Effective steering technique.

4.1.8 Parking Techniques. The student will:

a. Establish side position;
b. Demonstrate proper forward position;
c. Use minimum space; and
d. Evaluate alignment to space.

4.1.9 Turnabout Techniques. The student will:

a. Demonstrate turnabouts that fit the needs of the area they are driving.

IC. 4.2 The student enrolled in a certified driver education program will be able to properly use and understand available vehicle safety technology, if applicable.