

Pennsylvania Driver Improvement School (DIS) FACT SHEET

When any person's record for the second time shows as many as six points, the Department shall require the person to attend a Departmental Hearing, which may result in the recommendation to attend the Driver Improvement School (DIS).

A driver must attend a Departmental Hearing when their record reaches six or more points for the second time or when cited for excessive speeding (31 mph over the posted speed limit). At the conclusion of the hearing, the Department will determine if the driver would benefit from attending the PennDOT DIS course and inform the driver of the requirement to attend.

Upon satisfactory attendance and completion of the DIS, an individual who attends and successfully completes the DIS due to their record showing for the second time as many as six points, will have two (2) points removed from their record and avoid a 15-day suspension. An individual who attends and successfully completes the DIS due to a conviction on excessive speeding, will avoid having to serve a 15-day suspension. If an individual does not successfully complete the course or fails to attend, they will be required to serve a 60-day driver's license suspension.

The course is a total of approximately six (6) hours split over two sessions. These sessions may be in person, virtual, or a combination of both. Attendee participation is required as is passing a final exam with a score of 80% or higher based on a series of multiple-choice questions and covers driver responsibility and awareness, risk awareness, interacting with other roadway users and managing the driving task.

Questions and Answers

What is the Driver Improvement School course?

The course is designed to allow drivers to avoid a suspension by attending and passing a course covering driver responsibility and awareness, risk awareness, interacting with other roadway users, and managing the driving task. It is the goal of PennDOT that by attending and passing the course, drivers will be able to improve driving to allow them to avoid being cited in the future. PennDOT's goal is to improve the driving habits of course participants and prevent future citations.

When is the course held?

You will be scheduled for the course by the DSE based on availability. The class will be in two separate day-time sessions of approximately three (3) hours each. The class will not be held Sundays or Mondays.

What happens if I do not attend?

If you are scheduled to attend the course and are absent, your license will be suspended for sixty (60) days.

What happens after I take and pass the course?

If the course was ordered due to a Type II Departmental Hearing, two (2) points will be removed from your driving record once you complete and pass the course. If the course was ordered due to a High-Speed Hearing, a 15-day suspension to your driving record will be avoided if you complete and pass the course.

Am I able to take the course to have points removed from my record if I was not ordered to take the course?

No. The course must be ordered, and this is generally done following a Type II Departmental Hearing.

Why do I have to take this course? I do not know anyone else who has had to do this.

The course is designed to assist participants in modifying driving behaviors so they do not end up continuing down a path that could lead to suspension after suspension. Although the option of the course has been part of the Vehicle Code for some time, it only began to be an available option in July of 2022. The only other option, prior to the course being available, was a suspension.

What if I do not pass the final exam?

If you do not pass the final exam, your license will be suspended for sixty (60) days.

How soon after my hearing will I find out if I must attend the Driver Improvement School?

In general, if it is determined at the hearing that you must attend the Driver Improvement School, the DSE will inform you immediately. However, a letter stating the scheduled date(s), location, and time will be sent to your address on record to make you aware that the Driver Improvement School has been ordered.

If I end up being suspended for either failing the course or not attending the course, when will my license go under suspension?

You will have approximately forty-two (42) days from the mail date of the letter until your license is suspended. The letter is processed immediately upon the outcome of the Driver Improvement School (i.e., fail course or fail to attend).

Where is the training held in person?

The training currently takes place at the following Driver License Centers. You will be scheduled for the Driver License Center of your choice, depending upon availability:

- Butler
- Chambersburg
- Erie
- Norristown
- State College (Pleasant Gap)
- Wilkes Barre
- York

Why are there no courses offered at a site closer to me?

At this time, the course is only offered at certain locations based on examiner availability; however, a virtual option will be forthcoming.