

MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 30, 2019 at 10:30 am

Georgia Department of Driver Services headquarters located at
2206 East View Parkway, Conyers, Georgia 30013

Chairman Allen Poole called the September 30, 2019, Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 10:33 am. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members in Attendance	Board Members not in Attendance
Mr. Allen Poole, Chairman	Mr. Kevin Boyd
Mr. Spencer R. Moore, Vice Chairman	
Dr. Malika Reed Wilkins	

Non-Members in Attendance were as follows:

Mr. Jimmy Sumner, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Ms. Kisha Bell, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Ms. Lisa Owens, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. Robert Hydrick, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. Eshon Poythress, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. Toni Abasi Hill, Malcom Omari Hill Scholarship Fund, Inc.
Mr. Al Barber, Barber's Driving Schools
Mr. Mike Mitchell, Georgia Department of Driver Services
Representative Martin Momtahan, Georgia House of Representatives – District 17
Mr. Bob Hayes, AA Academy of Action Driving School, President of Georgia Association of Driver's Educators

Opening Remarks

Chairman Allen Poole thanked everyone for attending and asked that everyone identify themselves. Chairman Poole went over housekeeping items and asked Mr. Josh Turner to go over the meeting documents. Mr. Turner introduced the Traffic Safety Facts 2017 Data Report and the Teen Distracted Driver Report, both from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Mr. Turner explained that much of the data in the proposed Annual Report was obtained from the reports. Mr. Poole then asked Mr. Turner to address delays in payment processing to providers due to recent cyberattacks on the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Turner explained that payments had been delayed by about five business days and that the fiscal staff is working hard to pay providers as soon as possible.

Approval of September 30, 2019 Agenda

Chairman Poole presented the meeting agenda. Vice Chairman Spencer R. Moore made a motion to adopt the agenda and Dr. Malika Reed Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Poole presented the June 28, 2019 meeting minutes. Chairman Poole asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Turner stated that Vice Chairman provided him with several clerical corrections to be made and they would be corrected. There was no other discussion. Vice Chairman Moore made a motion to adopt the minutes and Dr. Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Representative Martin Momtahan from House District 17 thanked the Commission for making the hard decisions that is required for making budgets cuts.

Mr. Toni Abasi Hill questioned how many scholarships would be eliminated due to the budget cuts and Mr. Turner responded that about 50 scholarships would be eliminated.

There were no other public comments.

Approval of First Amendment to Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

Chairman Poole informed the Commission that Governor Kemp is requesting a 4% reduction in agency budgets and asked Mr. Turner to explain the budget cuts addressed in the First Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. Mr. Turner explained that the proposed budget cuts would reduce \$116,000 from the budget, reducing the scholarship system program IT support by \$75,000, scholarships by \$26,900, board member expenses by \$1,000, office supplies by \$2,000, printing by \$2,000, shipping by \$800, simulator insurance by \$2,300, subscriptions by \$500, and travel by \$5,000. Vice Chairman Moore inquired about the reduction in scholarship system program IT Support funding and Mr. Turner explained that the staff is in discussions to move away from hosting and maintenance from GTA to another provider. Vice Chairman Moore asked about the security of the data and Mr. Turner explained that the company had provided assurances that the data would be secure. Further Mr. Moore asked if the reduction in travel would negatively impact the staff's ability to conduct program audits. Mr. Turner explained that the staff would be making arrangements to increase the number of audits conducted in a day and have longer days in hopes of reducing the number of overnight stays during the audits. Mr. Turner added that if during the audit cycles, if more funding was needed to complete the audits, he would return the Commission to request an additional amendment. There was no further discussion. Dr. Wilkins made a motion to adopt the budget amendment and Vice Chairman Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

Chairman Poole recognized Mr. Turner to present the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report. Mr. Turner stated that the Commission awarded 5,632 scholarships which is an increase of 2.7% from the previous fiscal year despite the decrease in funding. Vice Chairman Moore requested that the Commission be presented with crash and fatality data for the age group the Commission targets to see if there are reductions in crashes and fatalities. Dr. Wilkins inquired if there was a way to examine the data on local level to see if there was a correlation in reduction of crashes and fatalities and students we serve. Vice Chairman Moore asked a question to the driving schools who attended the meeting, if they track their student's results after the student has completed the training to obtain additional data. Some providers responded no, they have not had any reports from their student's records involving in any fatalities. Vice Chairman Moore was pleased with their responses. Chairman Poole advised that during the upcoming legislative session, that data will be very important when having discussions to request increased funding to assist the Commission in expanding the training to more students to make sure better drivers are on the road. Mr. Hill asked if there was a program where driving simulators could be transported around the state to allow students to use them. Mr. Turner said that he was not aware of program that offered that kind of service. Vice Chairman Moore inquired if there were organizations such as Ford that offered programs. Mr. Turner advised that the Ford Driving Skills for Life program visits states every couple of years and provides advanced training to a limited number of students. Representative Momtahan stated that his business purchased a driving simulator and placed it on a truck to take to

community events and offer times for students to use the simulator. He explained the program was largely unsuccessful because nothing replaces behind the wheel training. Mr. Barber said this business also purchased a driving simulator and it didn't prove to be a successful tool in training students. Dr. Wilkins asked how often driver's education curriculum changes to adapt to different trends such as scooters, and other things. Several providers noted that as trends change, they update their course material to change with times, in some cases, weekly. Chairman Poole stated that it is important for GOHS, GDEC and the providers to work cooperatively so that we can train more drivers. Vice Chairman Moore made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report. Dr. Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Chairman Poole recognized Mr. Turner to give the staff report. Mr. Turner presented the Provider Scholarship Redemption Report, the First Quarter Customer Service Report, and the Scholarship Report. The reports are included in the minutes.

Provider Scholarship Redemption Report (06/27/2019 through 09/27/2019)

PROVIDER NAME	SCHOLARSHIPS REDEEMED (06/27/2019 – 09/27/2019)
A-1 Driving School, Inc.	253
Barber's Driving School, Inc.	94
A+ Driving Schools	55
West Metro Driving School	54
New London School of Driving Inc.	50
Marietta City Board of Education	43
Lanier Technical College	41
Taggart's Driving School	40
Gwinnett County Board of Education	35
Augusta Technical College	32
Advance Driving Academy	29
Southern Crescent Technical College	29
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	29
Southern Regional Technical College	28
Brock's Driver Education School, Inc.	26
DriveSmart Systems, Inc.	26
South Cherokee/Jasper Driver Improvement Clinic Inc.	26
Georgia Driving School, Inc.	23
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	23
Georgia Piedmont Technical College	23
Savannah Technical College	22
AA Academy of Action Driving School	21
Central Georgia Technical College	21
Dickerson Driving School, Inc.	21
Safety 1st Driver Education	21
Albany Technical College	20
Atlanta Technical College	19
Coastal Pines Technical College	19
Jones Driver Education School of Augusta, Inc.	19
AABACUS, Inc.	18
Executive Results DUI & Defensive Driving School, LLC	18
Southeastern Regional Driving and Safety Academy Inc.	18

West Georgia Technical College	18
Kennesaw Driving School	17
Classic VIP Driving School, LLC	16
Ogeechee Technical College	16
A Driving Advantage	15
North Georgia Technical College	12
Duluth DUI and Driving School	11
Oconee County Board of Education	11
1st United Driving & DUI School	10
Brownhill Enterprises Towne Lake Driving School, LLC	9
Nathan's Driving School, Inc.	9
South Georgia Technical College	9
FB Driving, Inc.	8
Rockdale-Newton Driving School	8
All Star Driver Education, Inc.	7
Oconee Fall Line Technical College	7
Columbus Technical College	6
Just Driver Training	6
Safe America Foundation, Inc.	5
Southeastern Technical College	5
Athens Technical College	4
Gordon County Board of Education	4
Southern Defensive Driving School	4
Drive Again Driving School	2
Calhoun City Board of Education	1
White County Board of Education	1

FY 2020 First Customer Service Report

Provider Email Inquiries	3,212
Parent Email Inquiries	2,813
Voicemails Received	1,046
Invoices Processed	548

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program

July 2019 Scholarship Report

Summary

Monthly Allocation	Total Applied	Total Approved
385	413	385

Applications by Tier

	Applied	Approved	Rejected
Tier 1	0	0	0
Tier 2	198	198	0
Tier 3	215	187	28
Total	413	385	28

Applications by Congressional District

District #	Applied	Approved	Rejected
1	22	22	0
2	29	29	0
3	32	32	0
4	22	22	0
5	13	13	0
6	23	23	0
7	34	32	2
8	20	20	0
9	15	15	0
10	23	23	0
11	51	39	12
12	41	36	5
13	47	42	5
14	41	37	4
Total	413	385	28

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program

August 2019 Scholarship Report

Summary

Monthly Allocation	Total Applied	Total Approved
385	923	385

Applications by Tier

	Applied	Approved	Rejected
Tier 1	0	0	0
Tier 2	469	385	84
Tier 3	454	0	454
Total	923	385	538

Applications by Congressional District

District #	Applied	Approved	Rejected
1	37	20	17
2	63	31	32
3	97	31	66
4	67	31	36
5	28	19	9
6	39	17	22
7	68	32	36
8	46	22	24
9	60	27	33
10	74	31	43
11	98	31	67
12	51	27	24
13	90	35	55
14	105	31	74
Total	923	385	538

Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program

September 2019 Scholarship Report

Summary

Monthly Allocation	Total Applied	Total Approved
	785	385

Applications by Tier

	Applied	Approved	Rejected
Tier 1	1	1	0
Tier 2	436	384	52
Tier 3	348	0	348
Total	785	385	400

Applications by Congressional District

District #	Applied	Approved	Rejected
1	48	30	18
2	52	31	21
3	71	29	42
4	51	31	20
5	37	23	14
6	35	14	21
7	66	29	37
8	46	27	19
9	46	21	25
10	68	31	37
11	91	30	61
12	55	30	25
13	62	30	32
14	57	29	28
Total	785	385	400

Vice Chairman Moore asked about the committee that was discussed at the previous meeting regarding the establishment of a committee to review the scholarship program eligibility criteria. Chairman Poole advised that he does not plan to establish the committee until the vacant Commission seats are filled.

Adjournment

Dr. Wilkins made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kischa Bell
Business Operations Analyst
Georgia Driver's Education Commission