

## CONTROVERSIES IN TSE

By Skeet Gaul (TSE Instructor & WTSEA Treasurer)

---



### ISSUE: Teaching To the Test: An Opinion

Some in TSE are worried about the new law, House Bill 1635, and what it may evolve into as far as teaching to the test. They are concerned that if driving schools administer the test to the same students they are teaching, that the temptation will be strong to teach specific questions that will be on the test. I think most of us agree that this would be both morally as well as educationally unsound. As educators, we should be focused on teaching best practices. I don't think any of us would agree that teaching to the test would be included as a "best practice". Yet, people being people, there will be those who want to enhance their school's success rate statistics.

It seems simple to me. The people who administer the written test should be impartial (not associated with the student's school) and the test should be objective and each test should be different (random). Drive instructors who administer the Drive part of the test should be certified at one training center. This would come as close as we can to being objective because all drive testers would be looking for the same things and be trained to have similar drive routes.

The problem could be eliminated by implementing three possible suggestions. (1) The test could be administered by an impartial party such as a different driving school or the DOL, where the student's school origin would not be disclosed until after the test (2) All tests could consist of a smaller set of questions selected randomly from a much larger set of curriculum based questions which would change with each test (the way the DOL does it, presently). (3) The drive instructors who administer the driving portion of the test should all be trained and certified at a central location, so that everyone is "on the same page" in regard to testing for the same curriculum based knowledge, skills, and procedures as well as similar drive routes.

In summary, "Best Practice" would be to encourage all students to acquire as much general knowledge as possible as well as skills, a positive driving attitude and experience to be a successful lifelong driver.

The new problem becomes, "How do we implement these changes in a down economy?"