

CLOCK HOUR REQUIREMENTS

Because of the difference between conditional and certified teachers, and two different agencies, it always gets confusing as to what the requirements are for continuing education (CE) in Traffic Safety.

In an attempt to clarify the confusion, the following information is provided:

I. Public School Teachers

The agency for monitoring compliance requirements with continuing education for public school TSE teachers is the Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI). But, they don't do it directly through the Certification Office. Compliance for TSE CE is monitored by the Student Transportation section through the annual TSE program approval process.

Traffic Safety Education is the only endorsement subject area that requires continuing education specific to the endorsed subject matter. This is important for safety reasons and for maintaining high uniform standards in both the DOL and OSPI-administered TSE programs.

There are four types of situations that pertain to TSE teachers in the public schools, depending upon the type of certificate you hold:

1) Certified teachers - must receive **40 approved clock hours** (or 4 university credits) **every 5 years in TSE-related coursework.** *(This can be inclusive of the 150 hours/15 credits required every 5 years to maintain a Continuing or Residency teaching certification)* It is the **TSE Coordinator** who is responsible for **monitoring** compliance with this requirement (just like checking the driving abstracts annually are also his/her duty). But it is the **individual teachers** who are required to **maintain** compliance, just as they are required to maintain the requirements of their teaching certificate. *If you do not maintain compliance with the TSE CE requirement, you will lose the ability to teach TSE, but not your TSE endorsement or your teaching certificate, unless you do not renew your teaching certificate before the expiration date.*

[The simplest way to remain in compliance with the TSE CE requirement is to be a WTSEA member and attend at least one of our 8-hour workshops/conferences per year; WTSEA is an OSPI-approved clock hour provider]

2) Lifetime Certificate teachers or holders of a Letter of Approval - Be advised: The same TSE continuing education requirement pertains to you, even if you are not otherwise required to take continuing education coursework to maintain your teaching certificate.

3) **Conditional instructors (BTW or classroom) - must receive 60 hours of TSE-related coursework every 2 years. Twelve of those *must be approved clock hours*.** The other 48 hours *can* be project-related, or other coursework that is **approved beforehand by your TSE coordinator** (if the superintendent has designated the coordinator as the authorizing agent). *(It is unclear what documentation is necessary to support this in case of an audit; the best advice is to check with OSPI before engaging in any “project-based” coursework in your district; courses that are often approved are: SPED workshops, technology classes, First-aid courses, etc. “TSE Projects” can be curriculum revision; drafting lesson plans/route plans, etc.)*

[Arrangements with WTSEA can also be made to approve clock hours for TSE-specific projects if an application is submitted to us for approval at least two months before the coursework begins; WTSEA will not approve clock hours for general “professional development courses” or First Aid courses offered by a school district or ESD due to our inability to monitor the coursework]

4) A **Commercial Driver Training School (DTS) Instructor**, who is **also a Certified or Conditional Teacher** in a public school - must receive approved clock hours from an OSPI-approved clock-hour provider *(such as WTSEA)*. **The DOL certificate from a DOL-sponsored workshop will not be accepted by OSPI; nor will they be accepted by a school district for advancement on a salary scale.** You must have documentation from an approved clock-hour provider.

[WTSEA usually offers clock hours for most conferences/workshops in Washington or Oregon, even if sponsored by the DOL; DOL accepts WTSEA’s OSPI-approved clock hours for satisfying its CE requirements. Either way, if you are a WTSEA member and receive clock hours from us, your clock hours will be accepted by either agency. But, you may have to check-in and out at both registration tables to get the appropriate documentation]

Here are some other key points to bear in mind:

5) **Clock hours** from another state or national conference are not acceptable, unless an OSPI-approved-clock-hour provider offers them. *[WTSEA can offer this service if an application for clock-hour approval is submitted at least two months prior to the workshop/conference; A WTSEA representative or designee must also be in attendance to verify the coursework and to coordinate the paperwork]*

6) **Documentation:** The necessary **records** for proving TSE CE compliance are these:

(A) Each time you attend a workshop/conference, follow the registration procedures, and sign-in. You must also sign-out at the end of the workshop/conference, and return the evaluation form; at that time a signed copy of the official clock-hour form that certifies your credit will be handed to you. Keep these in your permanent file as proof of earning the clock hour credit. Never give the original copy to anyone (like OSPI or your school district) who may require proof of attendance. If they need a copy, have them make a photocopy of the original and return it to you. *[Unlike the ESDs, WTSEA does*

not send you a transcript each year listing the clock hours you have earned; but WTSEA can send out a duplicate form upon request]

(B) Keep track of your accumulated hours on the official OSPI-form #1547 (available on the OSPI and WTSEA websites) and submit this form to OSPI when it is time for you to renew your teaching certificate (either every 5 years or every two years, depending on the type of certificate you have).

(C) It is up to your local TSE coordinator to determine which documentation will be expected to verify compliance each year when the Program Approval is due. Check with him/her. But **OSPI accepts only an official OSPI-approved clock hour form or a college transcript as definitive verification, so this is recommended. Because you are responsible for your own records, keep all originals.**

7) **Annual program approval** by OSPI is contingent upon the district certifying that all instructors/teachers meet all requirements they are held to. If you do not maintain your continuing education requirements, you endanger the district's program because OSPI can deny approval and shut down your entire program. Further, it is a violation of professional conduct standards for you teach TSE if you haven't maintained your CE requirement.

8) WTSEA, and any other clock hour-provider, **cannot offer clock hours for attendance in a course after-the-fact.** There are strict requirements for record-keeping and prior approval. If you plan to attend a particular workshop/conference for which you desire approved clock hours, you need to contact the clock hour provider (*Alex Hansen, currently*) well ahead of time and complete an application. This is not normally done on an individual basis, but for all instructors in an ESD area or school district. [*Note: WTSEA offers clock hours at no charge to current members. Dues must be paid at renewal time in the Fall and are good until the following August 31st; Non-members are charged a fee of \$4.00 per clock hour]*

9) **University credit** (transcripts) for classes taken out of state usually will be accepted by OSPI to satisfy the continuing ed requirements for **certified teachers. Conditional teachers** should be sure to get approval from the TSE coordinator **beforehand.** Your proof of record is the college transcript.

10) **Contact Information:** (OSPI) 360-725-6120

Glenn Gorton, Student Transportation Program Supervisor
glenn.gorton@k12.wa.us

11) **Legal References:** (See appendix for actual language)

- RCW 28A-220.030 (4)
- WAC 392-153-020 (3)
- WAC 392-153-021 (3)

II. DOL Driver Training School (DTS) Instructors

The agency responsible for monitoring compliance requirements with continuing education for DTS instructors is the Department of Licensing (DOL).

For DTS instructors, there is only one license. Instructors must submit a renewal application every two years.

Documentation of compliance with the TSE continuing education requirement is part of the renewal process. Here are the details:

1) The requirement for continuing education is 16 hours every two years. The coursework requirement must be verified on the instructor's renewal application.

2) **Documentation/records:** You must sign in and out at every workshop and return the workshop evaluation. The DOL, like OSPI, has a form (see DOL website) to list the workshops attended over the two- year period. But, a separate clock-hour form does not have to be issued for each course or workshop, as OSPI requires. Nevertheless, the DOL usually presents a certificate of attendance. The DOL keeps track of the hours for each instructor via the sign-in and sign-out form at each workshop/conference. The names are then entered into the database at the DOL office---a service not provided by OSPI. This is your back-up documentation.

3) The driver training school owner is required to verify on your renewal application that you satisfied the continuing education requirement. Your individual school owner will clarify what documentation they require of you, and may keep their own records of your attendance at workshops/conferences. Like OSPI/public school TSE programs, the entire DTS program approval is in jeopardy if individual instructors are not in compliance.

4) If a DTS instructor also teaches TSE in the public schools, then he/she will also have to fulfill the continuing education requirements and maintain the record-keeping requirements described in the above section for public school teachers.

5) If the DOL, the PDSA, or WTSEA is not the sponsor of the workshop or conference, it is advised to check with someone in authority at the DOL if you are in doubt about whether a course you are considering taking will satisfy the continuing education requirements. *(The DOL has allowed approved Trainer-of-Trainers at respective driving schools to offer their own in-house trainings if they meet certain requirements)*

6) **Contact Information:** (DOL) 360-902-0110

Driver Training Schools Program
Fax 360-570-4976
tse@dol.wa.gov

7) Legal References: (See appendix for actual language)

- RCW 46.82.320 (1)
- WAC 308-108-080(3)

Note:

There are two professional associations in Washington State for TSE instructors/teachers. Both welcome members from either public schools or commercial driver training schools. Only WTSEA is an approved clock hour provider. Here is the contact information:

Washington Traffic Safety Education Association (WTSEA)

<http://www.adtsea.org/wtsea/Index.html>
PO Box 264
Olympia, WA 98507-0264

Professional Driving School Association of Washington (PDSA)

Please contact JC Fawcett, Defensive Driving School
425-643-0116 x103

Appendix

**Public School Teacher -Traffic Safety Education
Continuing Education – Legal references/language**

RCW 28A.220.030 (4) The superintendent shall establish a required minimum number of hours of continuing traffic safety education for traffic safety education instructors. The superintendent may phase in the requirement over not more than five years.

Certified Teacher

WAC 392-153-020 (3) The course work requirement to maintain a traffic safety education endorsement or letter of approval is forty clock hours every five years.

Conditional Certificate Holder

WAC 392-153-021 (3) A behind the wheel or classroom conditional certificate is valid for two years or less. The superintendent of public instruction may reissue the conditional certificate if you provide verification that you continue to meet all requirements of this chapter, including

having completed sixty hours of course work within the previous two years. However, for the purpose of reissue, the employing school district superintendent (or designee) may approve up to forty-eight of the sixty hours, including approving credit for professional development courses or traffic safety education related projects.

DOL Driver Training School Teacher -Traffic Safety Education Continuing Education – Legal references/language

RCW 46.82.320 (1) No person affiliated with a driver training school shall give instruction in the operation of an automobile for a fee without a license issued by the director for that purpose. An application for an original or renewal instructor's license shall be filed with the director, containing such information as prescribed by this chapter and by the director, accompanied by an application fee set by rule of the department, which shall in no event be refunded. **An application for a renewal instructor's license must be accompanied by proof of the applicant's continuing professional development that meets the standards adopted by the director.** If the applicant satisfactorily meets the application requirements and the examination requirements as prescribed in RCW [46.82.330](#), the applicant shall be granted a license **valid for a period of two years** from the date of issuance.

WAC 308-108-080 (3) For instructor's licenses that expire on or after July 1, 2007, each application for renewal of an instructor's license must be accompanied by proof of no less than eight hours of continuing professional development as approved by the director. *[Note: Sixteen hours over two years is what the new rules stipulate, but the language here hasn't been updated as yet]*