

D211 POST: BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES NEW DRIVER'S EDUCATION MODEL



The Township High School District Board of Education approved a proposal which will allow the District to contract out the behind-the-wheel (BTW) portion of future driver's education classes during the monthly meeting May 10.

"Our charge is to create the most benefit possible for our students while optimizing our resources," said District 211 Superintendent Dr. Daniel Cates.

Historically, all driver education instruction for students enrolled in driver education during the regular school year was provided by District 211 teachers. The current model of instruction requires both a classroom component of 30 hours of instruction and six hours of BTW instruction. The District staffing plan ensures that all students will receive these hours of instruction under an efficient staffing schedule. Even with this efficiency, some sections of driver education require as many as five teachers, one for the classroom and four for the BTW instruction. Because of the significant staffing requirements, driver education instruction under the current model is costly.

The District has developed an alternative model for providing driver education instruction for the 2018-2019 school year. In the proposal, the District would continue to provide classroom instruction; however, the BTW instruction would be provided from a private commercial driving school.

“Through the model we are presenting, we are utilizing savings and efficiencies totaling more than \$500,000 annually so that we can continue to provide safe and professional driver education training while also, and importantly, delivering a student wellness program that integrates health and fitness topics throughout all four years of high school,” said Dr. Cates



Applying the previous model, the District would employ 11.2 full-time equivalency (FTE) to cover both the classroom and BTW instruction for students district-wide. It is anticipated that with the third-party instruction of BTW training, 2.8 FTE will be allocated for driver education classroom instruction, and 8.4 FTE could be redeployed to instruct other curriculum next school year; particularly, the District's student wellness initiative.

“By re-envisioning our health and physical education courses into a student wellness model, we can address meaningful developmental topics over the span of the four high school years,” Dr. Cates added. “These critical health topics have historically been covered in a semester or during several weeks of summer school.”

Additional information is available [here](#).