



November 4, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are committed to supporting the academic success and personal growth of all our students at Wayne Preparatory Academy High School. To encourage students to meet academic expectations and align with state regulations, we would like to inform you of an important policy related to student driving privileges.

According to North Carolina General Statute § 20-11(n1), students who do not meet academic standards are at risk of losing their driving privileges. This statute states that any student under the age of 18 must pass at least 3 out of 4 classes each semester to remain eligible for their driver's license. Failing to meet this requirement will result in a notification to the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, leading to the revocation of the student's license.

### Key Points of the Policy

- **Requirement:** Students must pass at least ***three out of four courses*** per semester.
- **Effective Date:** This policy will go into effect on ***January 1, 2025***, and will be determined based on students' grades for the semester most recently completed.
- **Consequence of Not Meeting Standards:** Students who do not meet this requirement will have their driving privileges revoked, in accordance with NC General Statute § 20-11(n1).
- **Reinstatement:** Students who improve their academic standing in subsequent semesters can apply to have their driving privileges reinstated.

We recognize the importance of a driver's license for many students and families. Our teachers, counselors, and administration are available to work with students who may need additional resources or guidance.

If you have any questions or would like further information about how this statute may impact your child, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 919-734-8085.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your continued partnership in your child's education.

### ***Driving Privileges***

In North Carolina, students under 18 can lose their driver's license if they:

1. Drop out of school;
2. Fail to make adequate progress;
3. Commit certain offenses resulting in suspension.



### **Dropout Prevention/Driver's License legislation**

North Carolina House Bill 769 became effective December 1, 1997, and reflects a coordinated statewide effort to motivate and encourage students to complete high school. This legislation requires that a student's driving permit or license be revoked if a student is unable to maintain adequate progress or drops out of school. Adequate progress is defined as passing three out of four courses and is determined by first semester grades and second-semester grades for schools on block scheduling. In rare cases, there may be circumstances beyond the control of the student or his/her parents that qualify as a hardship. If a hardship exists, the student may request a waiver. If the waiver is granted, the student would not be affected by the legislation. **Hardship cases are rare and are reserved for extreme situations.** The Hardship Review Form is available at your school or can be downloaded and printed from the WPA website.

### **Lose Control, Lose Your License legislation**

North Carolina Senate Bill 57, which became effective July 1, 2000, requires that a student's driving permit or license be revoked for one year if a student is given a suspension for more than 10 consecutive days or an assignment to an alternative educational setting for more than 10 consecutive days for one of the following reasons:

1. The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property.
2. The possession or use on school property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under G.S. 115C-391 (d1) or that could have resulted in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school.
3. The physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on school property.

School property is the physical premises of the school, school buses or other vehicles under the school's control or contract that are used to transport students, and school-sponsored or school-related activities that occur on or off the physical premises of the school.

Students who are at least 14 years old or who were rising 8th graders on or after July 1, 2000, are subject to this law. Students who are 18 years old cannot be charged under this law.

Unlike the "Dropout Prevention/Driver's License" law that only affects students under the age of 18, the "Lose Control" law does not stop at age 18. It is possible for a student to have his or her license suspended as a 17-and-a-half-year-old and not be eligible to drive for a full calendar year, reaching 18-and-a-half before again being eligible to drive.