The Student Driver Training Fund
(The money that is used for Driver Education in Oregon)

Oregon is a very fortunate state in many ways. One of those ways is how we provide driver education funding to the approved providers in the state. While many states have no money for this important benefit, Oregon has established the Student Driver Training Fund (SDTF) for Oregon teens.

Here are the facts about the Student Driver Training Fund (SDTF):

- When Oregonians obtain a driver license or renew their license, $6.00 of the fee is set aside for the SDTF. The fund helps pay for the important work of driver training for teens.

- The SDTF is only available to Oregon teens between the ages of 15 and 17. The fund is dedicated to defray the costs of driver training during the permit phase of a teen’s GDL\(^1\) license process. The requirement for driver training is removed when a teen turns 18 or obtains their provisional license at age 16 or 17.

- A teen under 18 years of age that already has obtained a driver license is not eligible for the SDTF subsidy since the fund is established to help teens during the permit phase.

- Oregon Revised Statute 336.810 is the legislation that establishes and protects the fund. These funds reimburse approved providers up to $210.00 for each student (ORS 336.805)\(^2\) for qualified teen instruction.

We know that driver education is changing the economy of traffic safety for Oregon teens and that it is valuable for teens no matter what age they choose to take the approved course. The training is worth it. The SDTF just can’t cover it if they’re 18 or older.

Please read the full Attorney General Opinion on the use of the SDTF.

\(^1\) GDL is an acronym for Graduated Driver Licensing and is the state mandated program for novice teen drivers to enter the process of becoming a safe, responsible driver.

\(^2\) The Department of Human Services (DHS) is also reimbursed (under 336.807) when they pay the parent portion of the cost of an approved course for a Foster child.