

Just the FAQs – Part 3 in the Series  
*Mirror Usage in TSE Vehicles*

Oregon Administrative Rule 737-015-0050 (2) (j) (A)-(D) states:

Any motor vehicle used by an approved provider, for the behind-the-wheel instruction portion of a traffic safety education course shall be equipped with **at least the following mirrors**:

- (A) One **mirror on each side of the vehicle**, mounted either inside or out, for the use of the instructor and the student while properly seated;



- (B) A **rear view mirror** for the use of the driver; **and**



- (C) An instructor **eye check mirror** to monitor eye movements of the student driver.



**Rationale:** Studies have shown that students learn quickly to “watch” for instructor glances and actually allow the instructor to “cue” them for correct behavior. [Example: when the student notices the instructor glance, they automatically aim their vision for the inside rear view mirror.] This is not optimal as it fosters dependence on the instructor and not independence by the student. When an instructor maintains an “eyes forward” posture, this phenomenon is greatly diminished.

- (D) An instructor **rear view mirror**.



**Remember, the visor mirror does not qualify as a rear view mirror.** Not only is your rearward focused vision limited, but you also decrease the forward facing visual field by having the visor down.

**Rationale:** It is imperative that the instructor continually monitors the rear zone before, during, and after commands to the student. A dedicated, stable mirror allows ease of eye movement as the instructor moves their gaze around the vehicle. Currently, the OAR (listed above) does not specify the placement of the instructor rear view mirror and some providers use the secondary side mirror as shown in the photograph to the right.

