

Concerned parents frequently ask about the difference in their local high school's drivers education program and Oklahoma commercial programs like ours, Certified Driving School. A comparison paints a strikingly alarming picture.

Public school teachers usually teach 20 or fewer days a year most often in the summer. Commercial school teachers instruct 250 plus days annually. We think lots of practice makes for better instruction.

Commercial schools are audited, checked and scrutinized yearly by the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. Public schools are not. Instead they are managed by the state department of education. No one comes out to check curriculum, official paperwork OR vehicles EVER.

No universities in Oklahoma teach any hours in Drivers Education any more so virtually all public school instructors earn their certification by taking a written test that most any experienced driver could easily pass. They have NEVER been taught how to teach the subject or have any supervision in teaching teens how to drive. Commercial instructors take a 30 hour course, intern with another teacher for 10 hours in a theory classroom and then are watched and instructed as they work one on one with students in the automobile for 8 hours after observing for another 8 hours.

Public schools usually use large bulky vehicles that they transport small groups of students to activities to teach their youngsters how to drive. Commercial schools teach in small compact automobiles more like a student might own themselves. Being more responsive and agile, these vehicles make it easier to learn to control the car's functions for the newbie driver. Bigger is only better since it allows public schools to haul an entire bevy of bystanders during their driving

lessons. Commercial school owners have long understood that private lessons are much more effective as more can be accomplished in fewer driving outings by using “total immersion.” Group lessons equal peer pressure and are poor choices in teaching new drivers.

Commercial schools can road test and issue drivers licenses because of their affiliation with the state Department of Public Safety. Public schools cannot. Parents should plan on taking off from work and spending half a day at the DPS to get their student driver test. Usually it takes 60 days to get an appointment.

Many are attracted to high school programs because of price but the price is deceiving. Students burn an entire semester in DE when instead they could be taking a course to enhance their career or even taking a college class in their high school. Drivers Ed could be taken in a fraction of the time after school for a small fee. This comparison clearly shows that even at a lower cost this type of driving school is clearly overpriced based on how little your student driver receives in quality instruction, use of impractical vehicles, missing quality time at their high school and the convenience factor of not having to deal with DPS.

Certified Driving School has no peers when it comes to quality of curriculum and instruction, practical vehicles and value. Local high schools are strong at teaching core classes but as can be seen shortchange the general public when it comes to teaching youngsters to safely and efficiently learn to drive! Call us. We can help.

Larry Swindell

