

## Driving-Tests.org Partners with Nebraska Libraries to Help Patrons Become Safe Drivers

Jennifer Huebner Davidson

A free service is offered to Nebraska library patrons to help make an impact on driver safety. Car crashes remain the leading cause of death for teen drivers in the United States and driver's education is on the decline in our nation's school system. Currently, only seven states offer driver's education in their high schools and parents are many times unaware of changes in laws and driver safety recommendations to effectively teach their teens as nearly 40% of drivers fail their written driver's permit test the first time. Driving-Tests.org is a website that fills a need concerning new driver safety education behind the wheel. In an effort to help new drivers pass their driving tests without concern and become safer drivers on the road, Driving-Tests.org offers free online practice permit tests created by experts based on each state's driving manual.

In April of 2014, Driving-Tests.org launched a pro bono community-based online driver education program as a public service initiative especially for public libraries, colleges and universities in Nebraska and across the nation providing them with ad-free online permit practice tests and educational best practices to increase the driver safety skills of their patrons. To date, more than 1,000 libraries in 49 states, including 11 Nebraska libraries, are offering this public service to their patrons.

Seward Memorial Library is one of the 11 libraries currently offering the service to their patrons in Nebraska. "We are excited to offer our patrons access to the free Driving-Tests.org resource that helps them find driver's education information and provides them



The home page of the Omaha Public Library's Driving-Tests.org online resource.

with practice tests," said Becky Baker, Director of the Seward Memorial Library. "Helping drivers pass the test and become safer drivers is a benefit to our whole community, and just one more way the library can provide services to our citizens."

Omaha Public Library also finds value in the service. "Omaha Public Library strives to connect people with information and resources to help achieve their goals in life. Being able to offer practice tests at no cost to the library or patron is a win-win," says Omaha Public Library Marketing Manager Emily Getzschman.

"We are passionate about online driver education and setting high standards in the United States to help lower the number of teen driver related crashes, injuries and fatalities," said Andrei Zakhareuski, Founder of Driving-Tests.org. "Car crashes are the number one killer of

teens and this partnership with public and private libraries helps us to prepare more drivers not only for their permit tests, but more importantly for their safety on the road.”

### **How does it work?**

This is a free program for libraries and their patrons that helps users prepare online for the written portion of their driving test at the DMV. There is no registration to use the service, no personal information is collected, and no ads will be displayed. Driving-Tests.org takes care of the setup, design, development and maintenance of each library’s driver’s education program. The program website is hosted on Driving-Tests.org server, but features the partner library’s logo on each page. Libraries can provide the URL to their patrons, include a link on their webpage and also offer the service on library computers.

### **What is included?**

The website features state-specific practice exams based on the Nebraska guidebook. The driver’s education program includes best practices, a parent-teen driving agreement, ten car practice tests, five motorcycle practice tests, three CDL practice tests, three online driver’s manuals and an FAQ section with detailed answers to more than 100 DMV-related questions.

### **Is it truly free?**

Yes, the main public website is ad-supported and users who visit the main page will see ads. However, library patrons who visit through the program URL will not see ads. The revenue received from advertisers on the main website allows Driving-Tests.org to sponsor the ad-free library program as a public service to help reduce car crash related fatalities and injuries.

### **How do I get involved?**

More information on the Driving-Tests.org library public service initiative can be found at: [www.driving-tests.org/library](http://www.driving-tests.org/library). To start offering the free service to your patrons visit: <http://driving-tests.org/elr/>. Libraries are provided with a unique web address, promotional graphics, printable posters, implementation guidance, usage reports and a sample press release to announce the driver’s education service to patrons.



*Jennifer Huebner Davidson is the communications director for The Gillen Group and a recognized traffic safety expert with more than 17 years of experience in program, campaign and curriculum development. She has authored and published several contributions in textbooks, journal entries and “The Expert’s Guide to*

*the Baby Years”.* She has been featured on national radio tours, the Today Show, in Parents Magazine, USA Today, Parade Magazine, Reader’s Digest and various media outlets educating motorists on the importance of driving safely. With a background in public health and marketing, Jennifer brings a passion for traffic safety issues and a desire to see public education programs bring about behavioral change in individuals.