# Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot (SDAP) Program: Talking Points for Motor Carriers, Associations, Driving Training Schools, and/or Drivers

## What is The Safe driver apprentice pilot (SDAP) program

* The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is conducting a three-year commercial driver apprenticeship program (2022-2025) in accordance with Section 23022 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
* This program will allow qualified drivers ages 18-20, who hold intrastate commercial driver’s licenses (CDLs), to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce when accompanied by a qualified, experienced driver in the passenger seat.
* Aligned with FMCSA’s mission to prevent crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses, this pilot will result in data which allows FMCSA to determine if allowing drivers aged 18, 19, and 20 years old to operate in interstate commerce is safe.
* The pilot program will collect data on these drivers until they reach 21 years of age to better understand whether preventative actions can be taken to decrease crashes involving CMVs and young drivers.
* The SDAP program will also help support the nationwide driver shortage by broadening the professional driver audience and thus, increasing CMV career opportunities, while also helping trucking companies hire and train new drivers.
* FMCSA will need SDAP approved motor carriers from diverse size and geographic locations to hire, train, and retain a minimum of 200 new apprentice drivers approved for the program.

## Key messages and calls to action

### For motor carriers:

* FMCSA is currently accepting all motor carrier applications via the [Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program webpage](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/SDAPProgramJobs).
* The [*How to Apply* guide](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2023-09/FMCSA_SDAP%20How%20to%20Apply%20Guide%20FINAL%20508.pdf) will help you successfully enroll your company in the SDAP program and determine if your company meets the [required safety and hiring standards](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2023-05/fmcsa_SDAP_factsheet-508c_4%2014%2023.pdf).
* FMCSA is committed to reviewing motor carrier applications and notifying them of their decision within 30 days of receipt of the application. FMCSA is committed to reviewing driver applications within 14 days of receipt of the application.
* FMCSA requires at least 200 drivers to be enrolled in the program to perform a statistical analysis.
* Hiring apprentices will help shape your future workforce and grow your business, improve productivity, and reduce turnover. Drivers who complete the Department of Labor apprenticeship program are less likely to pursue employment elsewhere.
* The program presents the opportunity to work with local High Schools and Training Providers to attract recent or pending graduates to come work at your company.
* Recruit and develop a diverse and highly skilled workforce.

### For associations:

### FMCSA is seeking carriers who meet the safety qualifications and are confident in their commitment to the SDAP program follow up actions according to the [Federal Register Notice](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/01/14/2022-00733/safe-driver-apprenticeship-pilot-program-to-allow-persons-ages-18-19-and-20-to-operate-commercial).

### FMCSA has a [*How to Apply* guide](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2023-09/FMCSA_SDAP%20How%20to%20Apply%20Guide%20FINAL%20508.pdf) for you to share with motor carriers to help guide them through the application process.

* FMCSA requires at least 200 drivers to be enrolled in the program to perform a Statistical Analysis.

### For professional driving schools:

### Drivers who have their intrastate CDLs and are 18-20 years old can directly apply to the SDAP program to explore interstate commercial driving careers.

### For CMV drivers:

* FMCSA is currently accepting apprentice drivers through approved motor carriers.
* During the pilot program’s probationary periods, apprentice drivers aged 18, 19, and 20 can operate in interstate commerce with an experienced driver in the passenger seat. Once the probationary periods end, the apprentice driver can operate in interstate commerce unaccompanied.
* Future apprentice drivers can review [the list of current SDAP approved motor](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/SDAPProgramJobs) carriers and apply to open jobs.

## other Resources

### FMCSA SDAP program overview: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safedriver>

### SDAP program fact sheet: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2023-05/fmcsa\_SDAP\_factsheet-508c\_4%2014%2023.pdf](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2023-05/fmcsa_SDAP_factsheet-508c_4%2014%2023.pdf)

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### How to Apply guide for motor carriers:

### [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2023-09/FMCSA\_SDAP%20How%20to%20Apply%20Guide%20FINAL%20508.pdf](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2023-09/FMCSA_SDAP%20How%20to%20Apply%20Guide%20FINAL%20508.pdf)

### Apply to the SDAP program: <https://mdacsurvey4.mdavisco.com/SE/1/FMCSA1851Landing/>

### List of SDAP approved motor carriers: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/SDAPProgramJobs>