# Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot (SDAP)

# Program: School Counselors Talking Points

## 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) as required by Section 23022 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
* FMCSA is looking to increase the number of apprentice driver participants – (18-20-year-olds with an intrastate CDL). FMCSA is encouraging them to join the Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot (SDAP) Program before it ends in November 2025.
* CMV drivers are in demand, making it a promising career with countless growth opportunities for interested and qualified 18-20-year-old drivers. Enrolling in the SDAP program will give apprentice drivers a head start by providing them a competitive edge to secure jobs in the transportation industry once the program is completed.
* This program will allow qualified drivers ages 18-20, who currently 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.
* Drivers must apply through an approved motor carrier listed on the FMCSA website. Drivers can contact those participating motor carriers directly regarding participation.
* FMCSA does not issue commercial driver's licenses (CDLs). Drivers must obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) through their home State (it is illegal to have a license from more than one State). You can contact your State driver licensing agency (e.g., Department of Motor Vehicles) for more details.
* During the pilot program’s probationary periods, apprentice drivers can operate in interstate commerce only when accompanied by a qualified, experienced driver.
* Student drivers will be employed by the approved motor carrier in SDAP.
* 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.

## how to apply for Young Drivers

### How to Apply Guide:

### <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2024-05/FMCSA_SDAP%20How%20to%20Apply-508c.pdf>

### Apprentice Driver Safety Qualifications:

### <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2024-05/FMCSA_SDAP%20Driver%20Fact%20Sheet-508c.pdf?utm_source=qr_code_guide&utm_medium=print_materials&utm_campaign=sdap24>

## other Resources

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

### Apprentice Driver Flyer: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2024-07/SDAD\_Flyer\_%20ApprenticeDriver.pdf

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

### All additional resources on the SDAP Toolkit webpage: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/commercial-drivers-license/sdap/safe-driver-apprenticeship-pilot-sdap-program-toolkit>

### 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>