

**For Immediate Release:**  
October 17, 2012

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**White Announces Innovative Use of Technology to Upgrade GDL Instruction Permit Process**  
*As this week marks National Teen Driver Safety Week*

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced his office has upgraded the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Instruction Permit application process using technology to improve efficiency and virtually eliminate paperwork and errors. This week marks National Teen Driver Safety Week.

Illinois is credited with having one of the most comprehensive GDL programs in the nation. White's office has worked to continually improve teen driver safety. Since the strengthened GDL program went into place in 2008, teen driving deaths have dropped 50 percent.

"My mission as Secretary of State is to save lives and make the roads of Illinois as safe as possible," said White. "National Teen Driver Safety Week can serve not only as a reminder of the successes we in Illinois have enjoyed over recent years, but also as a challenge to continue pursuing forward thinking policies that reduce teen driving deaths even further."

The upgraded permit process is web-based and user-friendly for high school driver education instructors, students and parents. The new system allows high school driver education instructors access to a secure area on the office's web site to electronically input all class information, test results and student information required for the issuance of an instruction permit. The new automated instruction permit process opened as a pilot project at three schools and is now expanding statewide.

"I would like to personally thank the three pilot high schools, driver education instructors and students who volunteered to assist in the testing process of this new program," said White. "The assistance of Buffalo Tri-City High School, Taylorville High School, and Freeport High School was invaluable to the on-going success of this upgraded web-based GDL program."

The driver education instructor is given a student access code by the Secretary of State's office to share with each student. The student, using a computer at home or at school, or even via his or her iPhone, may then input their information and submit the application electronically back to the instructor. This process eliminates the manual completion of applications, and cuts down on errors.

This process significantly reduces keystrokes at the facility, decreases production time and produces a more accurate and error-free document, White noted. The process also offers an opportunity for students and parents to take part in the interactive instruction permit application process together.

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