

# PROGRAM RESEARCH IN DRIVER EDUCATION

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there."

# The Talmud

The Driver and Safety Education Section of the Iowa Department of Public Instruction has received a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to evaluate the effectiveness of driver education in Iowa. This project, called PRIDE (Program Research In Driver Education), will span four years and involve approximately \$300,000.00.

# **HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT**

The Driver Education Standard of the Highway Safety Act of 1966 specifies that:

> Each state, in cooperation with its political subdivisions, shall have a driver education and training program. This program shall provide at least that:

There is a State research and development program including adequate research,

development and procurement of practice driving facilities, simulators, and other similar teaching aids for both school and other driver training use.

### PURPOSE

It is the purpose of Project PRIDE to comply with this standard and to measure the effectiveness of driver education as a countermeasure to the highway accident problem. A second purpose of PRIDE is to develop a model driver education curriculum that will be implemented and also tested as to its effectiveness as an accident countermeasure.

# CRITERIA

The PRIDE staff will develop and select achievement, attitude, and other test instruments that will be administered to a sample of students completing a sample of the programs. The driving record of those individuals tested will be monitored and comparisons drawn between test scores, types of program, and other strata. Like comparison will be drawn between those completing the model programs.

### COOPERATION

PRIDE, by its design, is a joint effort between cooperating state agencies and local driver education programs. The evaluation should provide direction in developing long range plans for program improvement at the state and local level.

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