

# NEWS RELEASE

## DRIVING SCHOOL 2012 SURVEY SHOWS LOWER ENROLLMENT

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The National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools (NAPFTDS) is a professional association of 110 Colleges, Universities and Technical Schools located throughout the United States. A recent survey conducted of entry-level programs of all member schools shows some interesting results compared to the last survey conducted in 2005. Of our member schools, 70% responded to questions such as; length of program, number of classroom and behind the wheel hours and cost of tuition.

In our 2005 survey it was estimated that our Association schools were training approximately 18,000 entry-level students annually. Results from the 2012 survey show that numbers has dropped to 14,000 annually. A reduction of 22% less students being trained compared to pre-recession levels. Lack of funding and harder to attract students may be contributing factors for the lower number of students in our programs.

Since the recession many public schools have experienced budget cuts and changes in their programs. These cuts came mainly from state legislature and school administrative actions within their states. Some programs at a community college can qualify for some Federal funding such as government student loans. However, some recent changes in Federal requirements are making it harder for students to qualify for government assistance. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding is sporadic at best and cannot be a reliable source of funding. Veterans Administration (VA) funding is available but the current system is difficult to work through not only for the school but also for the veteran looking for assistance. Company sponsored tuition is working at some schools but so far not many companies are willing to pay for training. Many companies have a tuition reimbursement program but that does not help the initial upfront cost for students to attend a training program. As the economy improves and the driver shortage becomes more of an issue, company sponsorships may increase.

Attracting students into an industry with a negative image is also a concern. No matter what the cost or length of program, if we cannot attract more into our industry our membership schools will continue to see declines in enrollment. The Truckload Carriers Association Image Campaign and Highway Angel programs will do much to help change this image and NAPFTDS supports those efforts. The American Trucking Association and America's Road Team are doing a great job representing the American driver to the public. All should get involved with these programs. Improving driver image should attract more drivers/prospective students to our industry, ensuring that the future of trucking will remain strong and have a qualified professional driver behind the wheel.

Other interesting results of our survey show that tuition cost and total cost of training is still about the same as the 2005 survey. Total average cost of training at a public school in 2012 is \$2971. At many schools, that cost includes housing, fuel charges and books. This is far below the \$6000 mark that many in the industry thought it cost to train an entry-level student. The behind the wheel time is also a huge factor at public schools. Member schools of NAPFTDS have a BTW average time of 74 hours. This speaks well for the amount of time a student has to develop skills necessary to safely operate a CMV. The average classroom time is at 81 hours. Schools average lengths of program are 7 weeks with a total of 238 hours of training.

Our member schools are divided into 7 regions within the United States. It is interesting to see the difference in programs when looking at each regional survey results. To see the complete survey and to find a public school near your location or recruiting area, please visit our website at [www.napftds.org](http://www.napftds.org).

## 2012 NAPFTDS Entry-level Survey Results (Return of 70% of membership)

# wks	# days	# hrs	#clsrn	BTW	Obser	Avg grad /yr	Cr hrs	PTDI	tuition	house	all other fees	tvl costs
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Region 1												
11	45	420	100	102	218	78	18	1	\$ 2,713	\$ -	\$ 1,850	\$ 4,563

Region 2												
8	41	234	93	49	93	80	80	1	\$ 1,644	\$ -	\$ 333	\$ 2,637

Region 3												
7	35	293	91	70	104	122	38	3	\$ 3,108	\$ 1,161	\$ 364	\$ 3,349

Region 4												
5	26	213	82	78	88	236	6	6	\$ 2,380	\$ 465	\$ 301	\$ 2,725

Region 5												
6	25	207	69	81	58	91	10	2	\$ 4,149	\$ -	\$ 63	\$ 4,176

Region 6												
8	31	225	71	77	83	93	8	5	\$ 1,683	\$ 750	\$ 280	\$ 1,902

Region 7												
7	25	252	91	67	75	77	14	5	\$ 3,252	\$ 300	\$ 214	\$ 3,688

National												
7	30	238	81	74	85	120	14	23	\$ 2,600	\$ 628	\$ 342	\$ 2,971