

OPINION

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Supports driver training acknowledgment

Dear Editor:

At the Lackawanna Trail School District board meeting on Nov. 10, representatives from two separate driving schools were present to put forth information and request an association for the ability to test the Trail students who take private lessons from them.

Although it was clarified that in no way would any of the driver's ed instructors be considered an employee of Trail, that Trail would have no liability or cost to the taxpayer, and that the testing would be done elsewhere and not on Trail's property, two board members expressed their disapproval.

One noted, it wouldn't be fair for the economically disadvantaged students who couldn't pay for private les-sons. Therefore, it would mean that those willing to pay for their children to be trained by professionals do not deserve to have their children tested by them.

Another board member felt that testing should be done only by a state official, despite the state's position that it is acceptable to be done by qualified, licensed driving schools and that the state is considering disbanding their testing in the future and opting to only use the qualified licensed driving schools.

While that board member may have his opinion, it is not right that he make it for other parents. It is fine for him to do it for his children, but we shouldn't have to follow his thinking. We should have the right to use who we wish.

One board member expressed approval, while other Board members fell silent.

We taxpayers, who choose to pay to get private driving lessons for our children, should have the right to have our children tested where we choose, and not be inconvenienced by a few elected officials who can't agree, especially since Lackawanna Trail no longer offers driver's ed.

Parents who will be using private driving schools, please urge your school's superintendent and school board members to approve an association with any qualified instructor who has clearances, to test our students. Also, contact your state officials to eliminate the need for private driving schools to have an association with any school in order to test a student.

The school's own accreditation should be enough.

Cathy Rist Strauch , Factoryville