

# **Student Math Fact Drivers' License Incentive Program - Directions**

The math fact drivers' license is one of the most effective student incentive programs I have ever seen that encourages and motivates elementary and middle school aged children to memorize and master their basic math fact operations. This incentive program has been used in both Title 1 and medium to high socioeconomic status elementary schools with equal success. The final product is personalized and of such high quality that students are excited and motivated to master their math facts to earn their 'drivers' license.'

The quality product is dependent upon the amount of time the classroom teacher engages in the process. The higher the quality of the incentive, the more students will strive to achieve it. It is strongly recommended that the school principal or lead teachers develop a vertical schoolwide math program beginning in the second semester of 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade work must be developmentally appropriate – possibly 25 problems correct on an addition and subtraction test; whereas a fifth grader must achieve 100 mixed one-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems in a span of 5 minutes. Using a structured system like Formative Loop, this can be accomplished by all students, including students receiving special education services, with respect to their IEP's.

The directions to this process follows. The only items to purchase are listed from the stores indicated. The templates for each state is a free download.

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## MATH FACT DRIVERS' LICENSE INCENTIVE DIRECTIONS

- 1.) Generally, it is more efficient to make all the drivers' license for a week at one designated time – each Thursday or Friday, for example. A Friday assembly is an ideal location for the ceremony. All students should applaud the student(s) earning their licenses.
- 2.) I have always used a digital camera with a connection to a USB computer port; however, a mobile phone may also be used with a USB connector or email the picture to yourself.
- 3.) It is recommended to use a light blue background or a similar consistent color. A large piece of butcher paper taped to the wall covering 3 feet to 6 feet in height is ideal for creating a professional background photographic appearance.
- 4.) After transferring the digital photograph to the computer, use the 'crop' command to size the picture. The picture may also be formatted with a 1 to 2 point black border on the photo to provide a separation border from the remainder of the drivers' license template.
- 5.) After the picture is positioned on the drivers' license word document template (MS Word attachment), *overwrite* the personal specifics for each student: 'name, height, eye color, date of birth (DOB), expiration date (one school year), grade level and school city – zip code.'
- 6.) Print out the completed student driver license template on a color printer using 60 to 65 bond weight white paper (approximately 10 dollars for 200 sheets) to provide the license some paper integrity. If only printing out one or two licenses, cut the paper horizontally after printing so the same (shortened) sheet of paper may be fed through the printer in the future when creating licenses – saving paper. I recommended saving completed licenses in a separate computer folder with its creation date – for future reference purposes as well as a reprinting, if needed.
- 7.) Laminate each Driver License with a small business card sized plastic pouch using a small portable Laminating Machine (an inexpensive machine costs 50 to 60 dollars and a more expensive machine costs about 100 dollars – but they remain functional for 10 years.) Both items may be purchased from Office Depot/Office Max. – each item is shown below. *NOTE: The Educator may want to resize the templates on both the length and width to better fit the laminate. The drivers' license template is a word file – easily adjustable digitally using the 'stretch' command with mouse cursor.*



Business Card  
Laminates - \$23.99  
per 100

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Portable Laminator - \$49.99 to \$105.00 dependent upon model

- 8.) The Math Fact Drivers' License may be presented to the student at this time. However, I have found the incentive to be more effective if it is publicly displayed – the successful student can become a walking advertisement to other students aspiring to earn their drivers' math fact license. Please read steps 9 and 10.
- 9.) Plastic badge holders may also be purchased at Office Max. Note: Educators often wear name tags at professional development conferences using this item – see picture below. The drivers' license plastic laminated corners may require trimming to fit inside the horizontal plastic holder (Not Vertical Holders). *NOTE: Amazon offers these type of cards for less money AND they are 4.5 inches wide...easier to fit laminated DL in the slot – Highly recommend.*



Horizontal Badge Holders - \$6.99 per package of 12

- 10.) Lastly, lanyards (IDville.com or similar company) may be purchased in bulk – very inexpensively – with school name and colors to attach to the badge holder. Students can display their license with pride in public view. Teachers should encourage and press students to complete their math facts and multiples. It is an important math numeracy skill to master and this task can be accomplished by nearly all students on a grade level with heightened proficiency using a structured process. Please read the numeracy white papers on the following website [www.amara4education.com](http://www.amara4education.com) for more information if needed or desired. Final product is shown below. Templates are separate word attachments.

Final Picture of a Math Fact Drivers' License with plastic holder and school lanyard.



**Note:** Drivers' License Templates may be downloaded **for free** at [amara4education.com](http://amara4education.com) website (link above), click the 'Free Downloads' tab.