

ANDY NELSON – SETTING EXPECTATIONS: STUDENTS TRANSCRIPT

[00:00]

(Peppy music plays while introductory slides show the Institute for Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation logos and then the video title of “Setting Expectations: Students”)

[00:06] [Speaker – Andy Nelson, Safer Driver Solutions]:
(Music quiets)

So, one of the things I always recommend to instructors is kind of set your expectations of what driving is going to look like from the instructor to the student relationship. And, so one of the things I always say is, “As the instructor, I am always in control of the car.”

[00:21]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver with an older passenger as they simultaneously buckle and check their seat belts before the passenger gives a thumbs-up)

So, I always want to be making sure the student’s aware that I’m going to keep them safe. So, in that statement, I’ll let them know that, you know, “I have a brake pedal on my passenger side.”

[00:30]

(Brief b-roll video shows a close-up of a foot tapping a vehicle’s brake pedal and then tapping the gas pedal)

“I have a gas pedal on my passenger side.” It’s all about safety of the occupants of the vehicle, especially the student driver. And that’s my role there.

[00:39]

(Brief b-roll video shows teenagers in a classroom with a teacher speaking at the front of the room)

Another thing that instructors can do, you’ve got to build trust with your student driver. So, one of the things I always encourage is one, try to avoid negative comments. Try to avoid comments that say you did that wrong or that wasn’t right.

[00:54]

(Brief b-roll video shows a high-five between a young driver and an older passenger)

So, always keeping the comments to a positive. Or, what can we keep improving on? You know, okay, so that, we went through a stop sign.

[01:00]

(Brief b-roll video shows an older passenger pointing to a stop sign ahead so the young driver stops in time)

Okay, now how can we improve on that next time? What can we do to scan better? What can we do to make sure that we do that a better job? So, we don't, that doesn't happen again, but not pointing out a negative.

[01:11]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver with an older passenger as the young driver brakes hard and the older passenger looks alarmed)

It's important to look at where they live in the state of Iowa.

[01:17]

(Brief b-roll zooms in on a map of Iowa that becomes the southeast portion of the state)

So, I live in the southeast part of state, so we have a lot of two-lane highways, a few four-lanes, but we have no interstates within an hour's distance.

[01:27]

(Brief b-roll video shows a driver's perspective of driving on a rural four-lane highway)

So, the important thing is to really discuss the speed of what you're going to travel on, how the road looks. You really have to go back and work with them to say, "We expect you to drive slower. You're a brand new driver. It's okay if they pass you. Don't worry about it, because you are being safe." And that's where, you know, you reinforce. We want you to be safe. And I tell the parents the same thing.

[01:46]

(Brief b-roll video shows a close-up view of hands flipping through the Iowa Department of Transportation's Iowa Driver's License Manual, particularly pages with signage and then transitions to video of a young person at a computer looking up videos about how to merge)

We'll try to provide as much information, even YouTube videos, to show about how you merge on an interstate and how interstates work, and even talk about roundabouts and the new interchanges that exist.

[01:56]

(Brief b-roll video shows a driver's perspective of exiting off of a four-lane highway)

But trying to give them at least some resources to look at.

[02:03]

(Video of Andy Nelson fades to black as louder peppy music resumes, while outro slides provide a disclaimer that reads, “This video was developed by the Institute for Transportation (InTrans) at Iowa State University for the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) with the purpose to provide the material for driver education instructors in Iowa. InTrans is responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the information presented herein as of May 1, 2025. Driver education instructors may use the material in its entirety or may use any of the material individually. The material is for educational purposes only. It is strictly prohibited to sell any part of this video. If any of the material is reused, please credit the Iowa DOT. For more information or questions, please contact Vania Boyd, Driver Education and Motorcycle Rider Education Manager, Iowa DOT, Vania.boyd@iowadot.us.” and show the Institute for Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation logos)