



Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics Curriculum Keeps Rolling Along in Omaha

How often do students use ecommerce to purchase an item? Would they be upset if their package was not delivered on time? Do you think they know how that package gets to their house? Would they be surprised to learn their item is probably next to them in a truck as they are riding around their town? I think many would be clueless, especially to the trucks that make the world we live in keep rolling.

My name is Mike Rogers and I am the lead teacher in the Business and Logistics Management (BLM) Career Academy in the Millard Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska. I have been in education for 18 years, with the past 9 in this current role. The BLM Career Academy is a dual-enrollment cohort of students who commit two years of high school learning about transportation, distribution, and logistics (TDL) and the business decisions behind this industry. While it may be a great program, many students still do not know about the TDL world.

Fifteen years ago, a colleague and I stumbled upon the concept of TDL and decided to start getting high school students ready to work in this industry. With a little luck and a

lot of blood and sweat, we created the first TDL program in the state of Nebraska at Bryan High School in the Omaha Public Schools. While there, one of the first topics we addressed was trucking. In collaboration with the Nebraska Trucking Association and the Nebraska Logistics Council, we developed tangible lessons for students to address those very questions I asked at the beginning. These lessons were then shared to the world via the TransportationCareers.org website with the help of project director Fran Beauman. Fifteen years later, I still utilize these lessons to help grow the knowledge of trucking in my students.

Trucking 101

In this module students will learn about the trucking industry and the careers associated with the trucking industry. They will become familiar with many of the terms related to trucking.

Grade Level(s): 9-10, **Subject(s):** CTE, **Pathway:** Transportation Operations

Two of the lessons, Trucking 101 and CDL Exploration, come to the forefront while studying trucking transportation during my Introduction to Warehousing and Logistics course. These two lessons make up a solid foundation into the trucking industry. I usually start off with an overview of the motor carrier industry and the essentials of its business. Then we will discuss careers and terminology. The Trucking 101 incorporates this part in its information. It is around this time that I try to schedule (if possible) a field trip to a local trucking company. I am fortunate to have one of the largest motor carriers in the country right here in Omaha, Nebraska with Werner Enterprises. Werner has been a wonderful partner in this journey and understands the need to grow the workforce in their industry.

While at Werner, students get hands-on experience with



their driving simulators and with their satellite communication systems. Students learn really quickly that driving a truck is way different than their cars! The exposure to the motor carrier industry is invaluable as many of our students drive by Werner on the interstate often but did not know how much impact this company, and others like it, has on the world.

Once the field trip is complete, students will be exposed to the different rules for driving a truck both for licensing and for operation. To do this in a meaningful way, the CDL Exploration lesson consists of students completing Hours-of-Service (HOS) Logbooks for different routes a driver would make. While all logs are done electronically now, the HOS paper logs are a great way for students to apply the rules and simulate the real world. This project based lesson allows for students to apply the knowledge of the motor carrier industry in a meaningful way. ■



CDL Exploration

Objectives

- What does CDL stand for?
- What does GVWR stand for?
- List and explain the 3 classes of CDLs
- List and explain the 5 endorsements
- List three habits of a good driving record
- List 2 ways to get driving experience
- Explain one penalty



Teacher Notes

This lesson is an excellent tool for helping students understand the skills needed for the different types of CDL licenses. Also discussed are the DOT hours of service as it applies to being a commercial driver. Getting a local driver with a CDL to come speak to the students is a great way to bring this topic to life. Also, there might be truck driving simulators in your area where you could take your students on a field trip.

Time required to complete the module

Estimated six 45-minute periods for a total of 270 minutes.

Module Support Materials Summary

- CDL Exploration PowerPoint Presentation
- Sample CDL Exam and Sample Answers
- HOS & Simulator PowerPoint Presentation
- HOS Student Activity
- CDL Exploration Quiz
- DOT FMCSA HOS Guide, Logbook Page, and Logbook Examples

Transportationcareers.org

A teaching resource with lesson plans and associated resources.

