

Educators4Education Driver's Academy Program

The E4E Driving Academy Program is redefining what driver's training can look like for Philadelphia youth. Designed to address both practical and emotional barriers to obtaining a driver's license, the program combines structured instruction with wraparound support, making the path to mobility more inclusive and achievable.

The program offers free driver's education to eligible students. This includes payment for the learner's permit fee, access to classroom instruction, and hands-on driving practice. To improve accessibility, classes are held in the evenings and are strategically located near public transportation. The program also provides transportation assistance when needed, helping students who might otherwise struggle to attend.

The curriculum blends traditional instruction with modern engage-

ment techniques. Students are guided through important steps like completing the physical form and preparing for the Pennsylvania driver's knowledge test. Weekly Kahoot quizzes reinforce learning while adding a competitive and interactive element. Small incentives like candy for correct answers make participation fun and rewarding.

Instructors like Ms. Yaideriah Johnson play a key role in building confidence and structure early on. "Between weeks one and three, we see students start to step up," said Ms. Yaideriah Johnson. "They're taking initiative, completing forms, and studying. There's a real boost in confidence and independence."

The program doesn't just prepare students to drive; it opens doors to employment and opportunity. Many jobs require reliable transportation, and this program removes the

financial and logistical barriers that prevent students from qualifying.

"They go above and beyond to meet you where you are," said Laniya Little, a former student who completed the program. "They made everything accessible, picking me up, setting up classes, and just being there at every step. I didn't think I could do this before."

In addition to driving skills, students leave the program with greater self-assurance and ambition. "I gained a better mindset and want to do more for myself," Laniya added. "It wasn't just about driving—it helped me grow."

With its no-cost model, student-centered approach, and emphasis on empowerment, the E4E Driver's Academy Program is helping young people not just get behind the wheel but take control of their futures.



Bartram's Field Hosts Annual Africaribe Soccer Tournament To Promote Violent Prevention And Prevention In Southwest Philadelphia

As the city of Philadelphia continues to grapple with the devastating impact of gun violence, young people, who are the main victims, need innovative and community-centered interventions that offer them alternative paths. Since January 2025, the city has recorded 7,643 incidents, including 141 homicides (Philadelphia Police Department). For the past six years, the Coalition of African Communities (AFRICOM) has provided community-driven activities to address this need focusing on African and Caribbean immigrant communities.

On August 1- 3, 2025, the coalition hosted the annual health fair and soccer tournament as part of its Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) program with

funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crimes and Delinquency (PCCD). The powerful weekend event brought together over 355 teenagers, young adults and communities from Philadelphia, Chester, Bucks, and Delaware counties. Ten countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Togo faced off at Bartram's Field in Southwest Philadelphia. The tournament culminated with a thrilling final game in which Côte d'Ivoire defeated Sudan.

The tournament was special not just because of the level of competitiveness and athleticism, but also because of the spirit of friendship and unity that unfolded on the field. Over the years, AFRICOM has used soccer to bring



communities together, advance civic engagements, and foster leadership development.

Matilda Sawie, Project Officer, AFRICOM