What to do if Stopped by a Police Officer

*Virginia Standards of Learning, DE.1* The student will demonstrate an understanding of Virginia traffic laws, licensing procedures, and other responsibilities associated with the driving privilege. Key concepts include e) interaction with law enforcement. In addition, the 2017 Virginia General Assembly passed legislation requiring that all classroom driver education courses emphasize this topic.
Safe interaction with law enforcement

1. Remain calm;
2. Pull vehicle to side of road in safe place and park;
3. Put on flashers;
4. Turn on interior lights if stopped at night
5. Turn off car and any devices that could impact your communication with the officer
Safe interaction with law enforcement (cont.)

6. Put down your window – Officer MAY come to either driver or passenger side based on safety;
7. Keep safety belts fastened - you and your passengers;
8. Stay in your vehicle. Do NOT get out of vehicle unless asked to do so;
9. Keep your hands in plain sight – on the steering wheel is best. Passengers should keep hands in sight;
Safe interaction with law enforcement (cont.)

10. Do NOT make any movements that may make the officer think you are reaching for or hiding something;

11. Carry proper identification: valid driver’s license, proof of vehicle registration, and proof of insurance. If the officer asks for them, tell him where they are and reach for them slowly preferably keeping one hand on the steering wheel;
Safe interaction with law enforcement (cont.)

12. If the officer is driving an unmarked car or is not in uniform, you may ask to see his/her identification;
13. Answer officer’s questions fully and clearly. If you disagree with the officer, do not discuss your point of view at that time. You will have your chance in court; and
14. You will be asked to sign the citation. Sign it; this is NOT an admission of guilt. Refusal to sign may result on your arrest, or you may be required to go to the police station