

## EDUCATION



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**FREE LESSONS:** Mabel Park State High School student Jasmine Millard with Leighton Contractors driving instructor Edward Chivers.

# Safety first for learners

MABEL Park State High School students could become safer drivers thanks to the Youth Safe Drive program.

The Mabel Park students are among 1600 young drivers in the state to benefit from free driving lessons once they have attained their learners' permit.

Mabel Park SHS teacher and driver safety program coordinator Michael Harris said he had received excellent feedback about the course funded by Leighton Contractors.

"The students apply for their licence through the school and then for lessons through Leightons," Mr Harris said.

The school has been involved with the program for two years and currently has 30 students taking part.

"They offer us 50 lots of driving lessons, which will count to 30 hours of driving on the log-book."

The tailored learner-driver program for young drivers aims to reduce the youth road toll by addressing road safety issues including perception and

reaction responses, road rules and crash avoidance.

Leighton Contractors Northern Region general manager Darren Weir said the training aimed to address the leading cause of death among young drivers – motor vehicle crashes.

"Up to 72 drivers between the ages of 17 and 24 died on Queensland roads in 2009, so our intention is that the Leighton Contractors Youth Drive Safe initiative will help reduce the likelihood of the participating students being involved in a road crash in the future," he said.