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## Shock: Local officials forced to learn to drive themselves to work

Local Source: [Xinhua News Agency](#) April 1, 2015

Much to the dismay of driving instructors in Changchun, China, there has been a surge in the number of driver's license applicants after recent reforms to the rules governing the use of public vehicles by government staff in the city.

As per the reforms, government agency, organization, and institution employees may no longer be driven around by chauffeurs in government cars. This has caused many public employees to apply for drivers licenses for the first time.



However, driving instructors report that this wave of students is proving to be a headache. Many of the students are late beginners. The instructors note that people who are 40 years old or older tend to learn much more slowly and are more "willful."

One driving instructor reported a 52-year-old deputy director-level cadre who refused to heed his coaching and has failed the driving exam 10 times. "The more she fails the test, the worse her temper."

For some government employees, obtaining a driver's license is essential to commuting to work. In order to meet the needs of commuters, the city of Changchun has opened special morning and evening driver's training sessions so that those requiring extra practice are able to get it.

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