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Teen Driver Laws by State

Novice drivers have higher crash rates. Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs allow young drivers to safely gain driving experience before obtaining full driving privileges. The programs and types of restrictions vary from state to state.

State	Min. Entry Age for Learners Permit	Learners Permit Minimum Duration	Nighttime Driving Restriction	Passenger Restrictions (ages when restrictions apply) **family is exception unless otherwise noted
Alabama	15 ¹	6 months ¹	midnight-6 a.m. secondary enforcement	no more than 1 passenger secondary enforcement
Alaska	14	6 months	1 a.m.-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers
Arizona	15, 6 months ³	6 months	midnight-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 18 secondary enforcement
Arkansas	14 ⁴	6 months ⁴	11 p.m.-4 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger
California	15, 6 months ⁶	6 months	11 p.m.-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 12 months—no passengers younger than 20 (limited exception for immediate family) secondary enforcement
Colorado	15 ⁷	12 months	midnight-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no passengers; second 6 months—no more than 1 passenger secondary enforcement
Connecticut	16 ⁸	6 months ⁸ (4 months with driver education)	11 p.m. - 5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers other than parents or a driving instructor; second 6 months—no passengers other than parents, driving instructor, or members of the immediate family
Delaware	16 ⁹	6 months ⁹	10 p.m.-6 a.m. ⁹	no more than 1 passenger ⁹
District of Columbia	16 ¹⁰	6 months	September–June: 11 p.m.–6 a.m. Sun.–Thur., 12:01 a.m.–6 a.m. Sat.–Sun.; July–August: 12:01 a.m.–6 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers; thereafter, no more than 2 passengers
Florida	15 ¹²	12 months	11 p.m.-6 a.m. (age 16); 1 a.m.-5 a.m. (age 17)	none
Georgia	15	12 months	midnight-6 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no passengers; second 6 months—no more

				than 1 passenger younger than 21; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers secondary enforcement
Hawaii	15, 6 months	6 months	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 18 (household members excepted)
Idaho	14, 6 months ¹⁵	6 months	sunset to sunrise	first 6 months—licensees 16 and younger can have no more than 1 passenger younger than 17
Illinois	15 ¹⁶	9 months	starts 10 p.m. Sun.-Thur., 11 p.m. Fri.-Sat., ends 6 a.m.	first 12 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 20
Indiana	15 ¹⁸	6 months	First 180 days, 10 p.m.-5 a.m.; thereafter, 11 p.m.-5 a.m. Sun.-Fri.; 1 a.m.-5 a.m. Sat.-Sun.	first 180 days-no passengers
Iowa	14	12 months (effective 01/01/14)	12:30 a.m.-5 a.m.	parental discretion ²¹ (effective 01/01/14)
Kansas	14 ²³	12 months	9 p.m. - 5 a.m.	first 6 months - no more than one passenger younger than 18
Kentucky	16 ²⁴	6 months ²⁴	midnight-6 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 20 unless supervised by a driving instructor secondary enforcement
Louisiana	15 ²⁶	6 months	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than one passenger younger than 21 between the hours of 6 pm-5 am; no passenger restriction from 5 am-6 pm
Maine	15 ²⁷	6 months ²⁷	midnight-5 a.m. ²⁷	first 9 months—no passengers ²⁷
Maryland	15, 9 months	9 months ²⁸	midnight-5 a.m. ²⁹	first 5 months—no passengers younger than 18 secondary enforcement
Massachusetts	16 ³⁰	6 months ³⁰	12:30 a.m.-5 a.m. (between 12:30 a.m.-1 a.m. and 4 a.m.-5 a.m. the night driving and passenger restrictions are subject to	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 18 (between 12:30 am-1 am and 4 am-5 am the night driving and passenger

			secondary enforcement; enforcement is primary at all other times)	restrictions are secondarily enforced; enforcement is primary at all other times)
Michigan	14, 9 months ³³	6 months	10 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21
Minnesota	15 ³⁵	6 months ³⁶	midnight-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 20
Mississippi	15	12 months ³⁸	10 p.m.-6 a.m. Sun.-Thur., 11:30 p.m.-6 a.m. Fri.-Sat.	none
Missouri	15	6 months	1 a.m.-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 19; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers younger than 19
Montana	14, 6 months ⁴⁰	6 months	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 18; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 18
Nebraska	15 ⁴²	6 months	midnight-6 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 19 secondary enforcement
Nevada	15, 6 months	6 months	10 p.m.-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 18 secondary enforcement
New Hampshire	15, 6 months ⁴⁴	none	1 a.m.-4 a.m.	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 25
New Jersey	16 ⁴⁵	6 months ⁴⁵	11 p.m. - 5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger (exception is limited to drivers' dependents)
New Mexico	15 ⁴⁶	6 months	midnight-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21
New York	16 ⁴⁸	6 months	prohibited at all times in NYC (five boroughs); all times in Nassau and Suffolk Counties except for limited (5 a.m.-9 p.m.) travel to	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21 ⁴⁸

			work, school and driver's education, proof required; otherwise 9 p.m.-5 a.m.	
North Carolina	15 ^{49,50}	12 months ⁵⁰	9 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21; if a family member younger than 21 is already a passenger then no other passengers younger than 21 who are not family members
North Dakota	14	<16: 12 months; 16: 6 months or until age 18, whichever comes first	The holder of a restricted license may only drive a car belonging to a parent or guardian and may not drive between the later of sunset or 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.	none
Ohio	15, 6 months	6 months	midnight-6 a.m. (age 16), 1 a.m.-5 a.m. (age 17) secondary enforcement	no more than 1 passenger unless supervised
Oklahoma	15, 6 months ⁵⁴	6 months	10 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger ⁵⁶
Oregon	15	6 months	midnight-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 20
Pennsylvania	16	6 months	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	first 6 months— no more than 1 passenger younger than 18; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers
Rhode Island	16 ⁵⁸	6 months	1 a.m.-5 a.m.	first 12 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 21
South Carolina	15	6 months	6 p.m.-6 a.m. EST; 8 p.m.-6 a.m. EDT	no more than 2 passengers younger than 21 unless transporting students to and from school
South Dakota	14 ⁶⁰	6 months (3 months with driver education)	10 p.m.-6 a.m.	none
Tennessee	15 ⁶¹	6 months	11 p.m.-6 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger
Texas	15 ⁶²	6 months	midnight-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21 secondary enforcement

Utah	15 ⁶⁴	6 months	midnight-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers ⁶⁷ secondary enforcement
Vermont	15	12 months	none	first 3 months—no passengers without exception; second 3 months—no passengers secondary enforcement
Virginia	15, 6 months ⁶⁹	9 months ⁶⁹	midnight-4 a.m. ⁶⁹ secondary enforcement	first 12 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 21; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers younger than 21 secondary enforcement
Washington	15 ⁷¹	6 months	1 a.m.-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 20 secondary enforcement
West Virginia	15 ⁷⁴	6 months ⁷⁴	10 p.m. - 5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 20
Wisconsin	15, 6 months ⁷⁵	6 months ⁷⁵	midnight-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger
Wyoming	15	10 days	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 18

Sources: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Legislation is continually changing. Therefore, this information is not intended to be exhaustive nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as legal advice. Readers should contact appropriate legal counsel for advice.

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