

What are GDL Programs?

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs are designed to minimize the highest risk situations for a new driver while they safely gain crucial experience behind the wheel. GDL programs introduce young drivers to the road slowly with a gradual, staged approach to earning a driver license.

GDL LAWS SAVE LIVES

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens, taking almost 3,000 young lives annually. These crashes are not just sad accidents—they are preventable crashes.

Since the inception of GDL laws, teen fatalities and serious injuries have been reduced by up to 40%.

50% of teens killed in car crashes were passengers driven by another teen

THREE STAGES OF THE GDL LAW:

- 1 Learner's Permit
- 2 Junior License
- 3 Full Driver's License

It's simple. Read on to understand the different licensing stages and guidelines.

WHAT CAN TEENS, PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS DO?

By understanding, following, and enforcing GDL laws, teens, parents, and guardians can minimize the risk of a car crash and keep the roads safer for everyone.



Visit ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Pennsylvania for more information and to take the online Parent-Teen GDL Module.

Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Pennsylvania



Impact
Teen Drivers



STAGE 1

LEARNER'S PERMIT

The Learner's Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience.

This stage can begin at age 16. First, teens must have a physician, physician assistant, certified registered nurse practitioner or chiropractor conduct a physical examination and complete Form DL-180. Next, once a teen has studied the state's Driver Handbook, they should head to the PennDOT Driver License Center where they will receive an eye exam and take the written driver test. Once these steps have been completed, they become the proud holder of a Learner's Permit.

Teens need a minimum of 65 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed parent, guardian, or other adult who is over the age of 21. Ten of those hours must be at night and five must be in inclement weather. They will hold their Learner's Permit for a minimum of six months before taking the behind-the-wheel driving test.

STAGE 2

JUNIOR LICENSE

Once a teen passes the behind-the-wheel driving test at the PennDOT Driver License Center, they will receive their Junior License.

A Junior License allows the teen driver to drive ALONE. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in the Junior License stage:

- For the first six months, no more than one *non-immediate family member passenger under 18* without a parent or guardian present. After six months, or until age 18, no more than three passengers under 18 without a parent or guardian present.
- No driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car
- No *texting* while behind the wheel



STAGE 3

FULL DRIVER'S LICENSE

If a teen has taken an approved driver's safety course, the *nighttime* and *passenger* restrictions will be lifted after one year of safe driving. Otherwise, the restrictions are lifted at age 18. Texting while driving remains against the law regardless of age. Additionally, seat belts remain mandatory for drivers and passengers under 18 under Pennsylvania law.

With a full driver's license, teens can participate in all of the privileges, responsibilities, and enjoyments that come with driving. But remember, driving is a privilege, not a right, and it is important to drive safely at all times no matter age or experience.

Congrats!

