

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's 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 Minor Permit
- 2 Minor 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/Colorado for more information and resources.



Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Colorado





STAGE 2

MINOR LICENSE

Once a teen passes the driver's license test, they will receive their Minor License.

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

- For the first six months of driving, *no passengers* under the age of 21 years old UNLESS they are siblings or accompanied by a licensed driver over the age of 21
- For the next six months of driving, only *one passenger* under the age of 21 unless they are siblings
- *No driving between midnight and 5 a.m.* UNLESS accompanied by a licensed driver over the age of 21
- *No cell phone use*, even with a hands-free device
- *Seat belts* are mandatory for all people in the car

*with exceptions noted in the state law



STAGE 3

FULL DRIVER'S LICENSE

After one year of safe driving, or when a teen turns 18, the *passenger, nighttime, and cell phone restrictions* are lifted. Remember, hands-free is not distraction-free. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under Colorado 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!



STAGE 1

MINOR PERMIT

The Minor Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience, and it has different requirements depending on age.

If teens choose to begin this stage between age 15 and 15½, they must complete an approved DMV 30-hour driver's education course and six hours of behind-the-wheel training. If starting between 15½ and 16 years old, teens must complete an approved four-hour driver awareness program or approved 30-hour driver's education course, plus six hours of behind-the-wheel training is strongly encouraged. Between 16 and 16½, no driver awareness program or driver's education is required to apply for a permit. Six hours of behind-the-wheel training is optional.

Next, teens will need to study the Colorado Driver's Handbook before visiting a Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Office to take the written permit test. Upon passing the test, they become the proud holder of a Minor Permit.

All teens need a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed adult who is 21 years of age or older. Ten of those hours must be at night. They will hold their permit for a minimum of 12 months before taking the driver's license test.