

# 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 Restricted License
- 3 Full Driver 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/Alabama](https://ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Alabama) for more information.

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# Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Alabama



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STAGE 1

## LEARNER'S PERMIT

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

This stage can begin at age 15. Teens will first need to study the Alabama Driver Manual. Next, teens can visit a Alabama DPS Office to take an eye exam and complete the written permit test. Upon passing both tests, they become the proud holder of a Learner's Permit.

Teens are now able to drive with a parent, guardian, or licensed driver who is 21 years of age or older and occupy the front seat beside the licensee. Students can choose to complete an approved driver education course to meet the minimum behind-the-wheel driving hours. If they do not complete a driver education course, they must have a verification form signed by a parent, grandparent, legal guardian or certified driving instructor verifying that they have completed a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel practice. Teens will hold their permit for a minimum of 6 months. Once the minimum time period has passed, they can make an appointment with their local Alabama DPS office to take the road skills examination.

STAGE 2

## RESTRICTED LICENSE

Once a teen takes and passes the road skills examination, they will receive their Restricted License. Teens must have permission from a parent, grandparent or legal guardian to receive a Restricted License and drive without supervision.

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

- No more than one *passenger* in the vehicle other than parents, legal guardians, or family members.
- No driving between *midnight and 6 a.m.\**
- No *electronic device* use while driving, hands-free or not
- *Seat belts* are mandatory for all people in the car.

\* With exceptions as noted by the law.



STAGE 3

## FULL DRIVER LICENSE

Teens who are age 17 must hold a Restricted License for at least six months before applying for a full driver license. When a teen obtains their full driver license, 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 Alabama law.

With a full driver 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!

