

# 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 Level 1 Learner's License
- 2 Level 2 Intermediate License
- 3 Level 3 Full 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/Michigan](https://ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Michigan) for more information.



# Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

## Michigan





STAGE 2

### Level 2 Intermediate License

Once a teen is 16 years of age passes the driver's license test, they will receive their Probationary License.

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

- No driving between 10:00p.m. to 5a.m., unless they are driving to or from work, an authorized activity, or accompanied by a licensed adult.\*
- Drivers cannot have more than one passenger under 21 years old, unless they are accompanied by a licensed adult
- Exceptions include immediate family members.
- No use of a wireless communications device while driving, hands-free or not
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car.

\*with exceptions noted in the state law



STAGE 1

### Level 1 Learner's License

The Instruction Permit stage is an important time for teens to gain driving experience, and the requirements vary depending on age. Teens must be at least 14 years old to apply for a learner's license (Level 1). To qualify, they must complete an approved Segment 1 driver education course, which includes at least 24 hours of classroom instruction, 6 hours of behind-the-wheel driving, 4 hours of observation driving time, and pass a written examination.

Next, teens will visit the Secretary of State office, where both the teen and their parent or legal guardian must sign the learner's license paperwork. The Department of State requires that teens log at least 30 hours of supervised driving, which must include 2 hours of night driving, with a licensed parent, guardian, or another designated adult who is at least 21 years old before they can move on to Segment 2.

Segment 2 driver education requires a minimum of 30 hours of supervised driving time, which must include at least 2 hours of night driving. Teens must complete a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving, which includes at least 10 hours of night driving in order to prepare for the road test. A parent or legal guardian must supervise at all times.



STAGE 3

### Level 3 Full License

After six months of violation-free driving on a level 2 license and being 17 years of age, all passenger and nighttime restrictions are lifted. Remember, hands-free is not distraction-free. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under Michigan 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!

