

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 Instruction Permit
- 2 Probationary 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/Ohio for more information and to take the online Parent-Teen GDL Module.



Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Ohio





STAGE 1

INSTRUCTION PERMIT

The Instruction Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience.

This stage can begin at age 15½. Once a teen has studied the state's Driver Handbook, they should head to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to take the written driver exam. Once they pass the exam, they become the proud holder of an Instruction Permit. Then, they need to enroll in driver's education at a licensed driver training school.

Teens need a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed parent or guardian. Ten of those hours must be at night. They will hold their Instruction Permit for a minimum of six months before taking the BMV driving test for a Probationary License.

STAGE 2

PROBATIONARY LICENSE

Once a teen passes the behind-the-wheel driving test at the BMV, they will receive their Probationary License. A Probationary License allows the teen driver to drive ALONE. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in the Probationary License stage:

- No *passengers*, with the exception of one non-family member, for the first year unless accompanied by a parent or guardian
- No driving between *12 a.m. and 6 a.m.* during the first year or between *1 a.m. and 5 a.m.* after the first year and before turning 18 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian
- *Seat belts* are mandatory for all people in the car
- No *electronic device* use while driving hands-free or not

Teens will have a Probationary License until they turn 18.



STAGE 3

FULL DRIVER LICENSE

After one year of safe driving experience, the *passenger GDL* restriction is lifted. When you turn 18 years of age, the *nighttime* and *electronic device* restrictions are lifted. Remember hands-free is not distraction-free. *Seat belts* remain mandatory for the driver and the front passenger of a vehicle under Ohio law.

With full driver license privileges, 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 your age or experience.

Congrats!

