

Survival 101

School Seat Belt Program

buckleupPA.org | justdrivePA.org

Laws for Teen Drivers

There is a three-tiered license system for young drivers:

Learner's Permit

- Six months of learning: A six-month skill-building period to practice and gain experience is required before a young driver may take the road test for a junior license.
- Parent/Guardian (21+) must accompany young driver at all times.
- 65+ hours of supervised skill building must be accrued including 10 hours of night driving and five hours of driving in inclement weather.
- No driving from 11 PM – 5 AM except when carrying adequate documentation to certify that the young driver is en route to volunteer service or employment.
- Drivers may only have one passenger under the age of 18.
- Stricter penalties exist for drivers on a learner's permit including suspension of driving privilege for 90 days if speeding (6 points or one major speeding violation).
- Learners permit valid for one year with extensions available if young drivers require more time.

Junior License

- Much the same as a learner's permit, except adult is not required to be present at all times – same nighttime restriction and exceptions, same stricter penalties.
- After six months on the junior license, young drivers may have up to three passengers under the age of 18 provided there are sufficient seat belts. For the first six months, only one passenger is allowed (excluding family members). If the driver has a traffic conviction or crash, the number of allowed passengers reverts to one until age 18.

Full License

- Typically issued at the age of 18, though if a young driver completes a driver's education course and is crash and conviction free for the preceding 12 months. You may obtain a regular license at 17½ years of age if you pass an approved driver training program, have no violations or accidents on your driving record, have held your Junior License for one year and have the consent of your parents, guardian or spouse.
- The maximum number of passengers is the amount of seat belts in the car.
- The same stricter sanctions exist for minors who possess an unrestricted license as existed in the learner's and junior permit.

Survival 101

School Seat Belt Program

buckleupPA.org | justdrivePA.org

Seat Belt Law

- Driver and all passengers under age 18 must be buckled up at all times.
- This is a primary law.

Texting Statistics

- Teens who text while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash.
- Sending or receiving a text message while driving takes an average of 4.6 seconds – when driving at 55 miles per hour, that is driving the length of a football field without looking up.
- Each day in the United States, more than 9 people are killed and more than 1,060 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver.

Anti-Texting Resources

- ATT's Texting and Driving Campaign | www.itcanwait.com
- CDC Digital Press Kit | www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/2013/dpk-distracted-driving.html
- Anti-Distracted Driving Campaign – Secy. Ray LaHood (R-IL) | www.distracion.gov

Pennsylvania's Texting Law

- Prohibits using an Interactive Wireless Communication Device (IWCD – cell phone) to write, send, or read a text-based message or check internet or email. (a primary offense).
- Institutes a \$50 fine for violation of this law.
- Supersedes any local ordinances that would allow for such conduct.
- Pending legislation includes provisions that would double fines in traffic repair zones and school zones, as well as make it illegal to use any IWCD while driving in any fashion.