

Parent E-book



When your teen is learning to drive, you are going to want to be involved, and that's great. We encourage that involvement. In fact, the more reinforcement of the laws and safety regulations, as well as proper driving techniques, that your teen has, the better.



ma.thenextstreet.com



Our approach

High School can be hard on both students and parents. The schedule demands of today's teens will have them pulled in every direction. Sure, it may seem easy to have a friend drive your son or daughter to practice or rehearsal. But is it the best decision?

Traffic accidents are the number one cause of death and injury in people 16 to 25. Don't let your family be a statistic. The teen driving laws in Massachusetts may seem inconvenient, but they are in place to keep your teenager, their friends and peers, and your family safe on the roadways. Let us help you sort through the laws, and some best practices. Whether your teenager is 14 or 16, you should now be talking to them about driving.





Massachusetts's New Driver Requirements

Teens (16 or 17 year olds)

In order to begin the Driver's License process in Massachusetts, your teen must be 16 years old. They cannot test for their learner's permit until they are 16 or begin driver's education until they are 15 and 9 months old. In Massachusetts, the new license process is all overseen by the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

We recommend your teen schedule their permit test as they are nearing their 16th birthday. As a teenager, they must hold their [LEARNER'S PERMIT FOR 180 DAYS](#) and take a 30 hour Driver's Ed course.

While they hold their permit, students are required to log 40 hours of driving practice with a Qualified Sponsor in addition to a minimum of 12 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction with a professional driving instructor and 6 hours* of observation while another student is taking behind-the-wheel instruction. A qualified sponsor can be anyone 21 or over that has had their license for 1 year with no suspensions. **Please note that during COVID-19, 6 hours of observation requirements are waived.*

After they have taken driver's ed, completed the required driving time and held their permit for the required wait period, they will take their driver's license test which is a 20-30 minute behind the wheel assessment. Upon obtaining their license, new teen drivers are subject to Massachusetts's Junior Operator Laws until they expire or your teen turns 18, whichever comes first.

Your Involvement in Driver Training

When your teen is learning to drive, you are going to want to be involved. Starting at the age of 12, your child is watching your driving habits behind the wheel. If you creep through a stop sign, you are subconsciously telling your teen that it is ok to creep through a stop sign. If you are texting and driving, then your teen will also be texting and driving. The first step in parenting a new teen driver is to get your own driving habits in order. It may be hard to break bad driving habits you have acquired over time, but it is necessary for you to set the standard you will hold your own teen to.

"At The Next Street, we offer high quality private driving lessons." These lessons are not meant to be the exclusive driving practice. Learning to drive is like learning a musical instrument. We can provide the core skills, but they are only going to be picked up and become part of your teen's nature if you practice between lessons. The MOST IMPORTANT THING is to stay calm and patient. If your teen knows that you are nervous and tense, they will be nervous and tense. Speak calmly and quietly, and only progress when you feel comfortable moving forward. (Example. Don't go onto the highway on your first time out. Start in a parking lot with some slow braking and accelerating. If that works, try turning. When comfortable with the parking lot, try some slow back roads. And so on.) The more they are exposed to the actual task of driving, the better they will become at it. We have a very useful [driving log](#) to help you and your teen reach those 40 hours while providing a general outline of what to practice.



The Dreaded State **Mandated Parent Class**

You probably know, in Massachusetts, all teen students must have a parent attend the 2-Hour New Driver Parent Class. We offer this course at each of our locations and it is included with all of our classroom products. Here's what we know: you have no interest in going to a 2-hour safe driving course. Here's the reality: When you leave, you will be thrilled you went. The time flies by, our professional instruction team is entertaining, and you will get all of the information you need to help your teen become a licensed driver.



01

● Yes, the class is required for every 16 and 17 year old license applicant.

02

○ No, there are no exceptions

03

○ No, you cannot pay us extra to be the exception

04

○ Yes, one parent or legal guardian has to go.

05

○ No, you cannot call your cousin that owes you a favor and ask him to go for you.

06

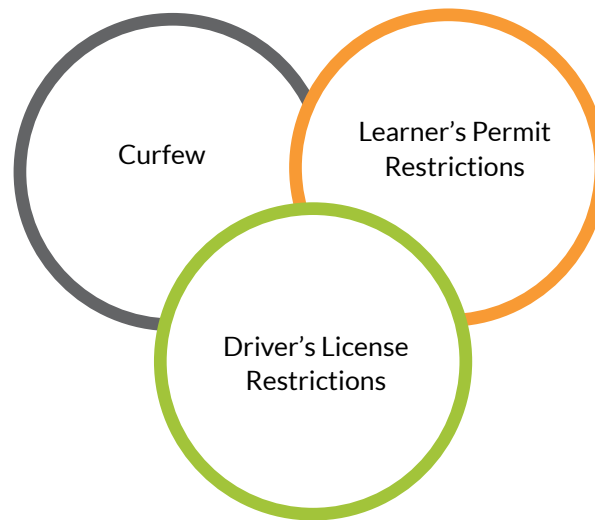
○ Yes, if your friend is going with her son, you still have to go with yours.

07

● O.K. now some good news! If you attended the class in the last five years, you don't have to attend again!

The courses are offered during afternoons, weekends, evenings and some holidays so that you don't have to miss work to take the course.

Teen Driving Restrictions



Learner's Permit Restrictions

- The only passenger a 16- or 17-year old can have is a parent, legal guardian or Qualified Sponsor for the duration of the permit. However, a parent or guardian may accompany the instructor on any driving lessons.
- All passengers in the vehicle must use permanently installed seat belts.
- Any cell phone (even hands-free) or other mobile electronic device may not be used while driving. This includes any hand-held computer or other device with a video display.

Driver's License Restrictions

Passenger:

For the **first 6 months**, a new driver may drive with:

- Parent or legal guardian with a valid driver's license
- A licensed driving instructor
- A person providing instruction who is at least 21 years old, and has held a license for at least 1 year.

You may NOT drive with: More than one passenger or any other teenager!



For the **second 6 months**, your new driver may drive with:

- Any of those people listed above
- Immediate family members, such as a brother or sister

You can now have multiple passengers (only as many as there are seat belts!), but still no friends.

After a teen driver has held their license for one year with no infractions, they are granted full access to the roads.

Curfew

A new driver may not drive between the hours of Midnight– 5:00 am, **UNLESS** it is for:

- Employment, School, Religious Activities, Medical Necessity

House Rules

Even before your teenager gets their permit or their license, you should be talking about what your house rules for driving are. Our recommendation is to have a candid conversation with your teen(s) to clearly communicate your expectations and the outcome if the rules are violated. Then, you **MUST** hold your teen accountable for those standards. Many parents think of driving as a right. We strongly recommend you communicate that it is a privilege, and can be taken away.

- For emergencies, set unique ringtones for family calls and texts. If that ringtone is heard, car goes to a safe parking lot, is put in park, and the call returned. Otherwise, phone is to be in glovebox, out of reach, and never to be used while driving.
- Don't call your teen when you know they are driving, unless it is an emergency!

Our Recommendation - Passengers

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>01 Not allowed to be a passenger until the driver has had their license for at least one year!</p> | <p>04 Make yourself available when possible to drive your teen where they need or want to go. If you make asking you for a ride stressful, your son or daughter is more likely to make other, unsafe arrangements.</p> |
| <p>02 Not allowed to drive with any teenager after 11pm (Including weekends!)</p> | <p>05 NEVER get in a car with someone that is intoxicated, no matter their age.</p> |
| <p>03 Give an emergency \$20 and program a nearby cab company into their cell phone (or download Uber).</p> | <p>06 Cannot be in a car that has more passengers than the car has seatbelts.</p> |

Our Recommendation – Drivers

- 1 Follow all of the State Laws
- 2 Do not encourage or allow your teen to drive with passengers
- 3 Set a specific ringtone and text tone for each parent and sibling. If that tone rings, your teen is to get somewhere safe and respond or call back. Other than that ring tone, the cell phone is not to be looked at, thought about and certainly not used while driving!

Possible Penalties





Insuring Your Teen Driver

Auto Insurance Coverage

There are various things to consider when adding your youthful driver to your insurance policy: Is your new driver a student “away at school”? Is the vehicle your new driver plans to purchase more costly to insure? Do your new driver’s grades impact the premium? Would an Umbrella policy make sense? These are among some of the considerations when adding your new driver to your policy. Although there are insurance minimum requirements mandated by each state, individual needs should be the determining factor when purchasing auto insurance.

What you must have

MA State Insurance Requirements are 20/40/5 – This is the minimum amount of insurance coverage you can have in MA and the numbers represent: \$20,000 maximum of bodily injury per individual, \$40,000 maximum of bodily injury per incident, \$5,000 maximum for property damage per incident.

What you should have

The recommended amount is significantly higher than the state requirements, and is dependent on individual situations. When determining your coverage needs, you should consider the assets you are protecting, and your liability exposure (the more drivers in a household, the higher the exposure. A needs evaluation would be prudent to determine the appropriate coverage for your particular household. Insurance is not a one-size-fits-all purchase. A tailored policy is the only way to go.

All-Street Graduate Insurance Benefit

Recognizing that the insurance component of putting a youthful driver on the road is a matter of concern for most parents, The Next Street has partnered with Smith Bros. to help guide parents of new drivers through the insurance process.

To set up a no obligation evaluation, contact Smith Brothers at (860) 652-3235 or visit the website at www.smithbrothersusa.com

Ready for your teen to get on the road to their license? They can get started by downloading our easy to use [Permit Prep eBook](#). It will walk them through the entire process, as well as provide practice tests and study guides.

Have they already gotten their permit? To enroll, or to get help in picking the program that is right for them, visit us online at ma.thenextstreet.com, or by calling our Customer Happiness Team at (617)468-8100



WE WANT YOU IN OUR SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM!

Get Started on the Easiest Road to Your Teen's License

-At least 50 new classes starting each month in the afternoons, evenings and weekends.

-Teenagers are our business, we know they're busy, and so are you! You can find a class to fit even the busiest schedules, and if you ever miss, you can make up at any time.

-95% of our students pass their driving test with The Next Street on the first try!

-We are the only driving school in Massachusetts with a fully staffed customer happiness center that is available to answer all of your licensing and driver safety questions!

Classes Fill Fast! Enroll Today! Online: ma.thenextstreet.com, Phone: (617)468-8100



DRIVING INSTRUCTION – Log

Massachusetts state law requires that students under the age of 18 who received their permit after August 1, 2008 need to complete 40 hours of driving time with an adult. This sheet is designed to help parents and students track what is covered in this driving time. Below are some suggestions from the state and from our instructors on material that will provide teens with a safe driving foundation.

Controls, Gauges, and Maintenance (at least 2hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should know how to operate the pedals, switches, buttons, and other vehicle controls.

Driving in Limited Traffic (at least 6hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should be able to drive on lightly-traveled, two lane residential streets or country roads not over 35MPH.

Parking (at least 2hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should be able to park in a lot with cars parked and moving around.

Driving on Limited-Access Highways (at least 6hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should be able to drive during non-rush hour time.

Learning the Basics (at least 2hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should be able to start, stop, drive forward, reverse, and turn vehicle.

Handling the Vehicle in Traffic (at least 8hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should be able to move onto routes with a mixture of neighborhood streets and commercial areas, including 4 lane roads and designated turn lanes. Speed limit should not exceed 40MPH.

Driving at Night (at least 5hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should be able to drive safely at night.

Additional Practice (at least 8hrs.)

OBJECTIVE: Student should be able to drive you on errands and trips, following directions and route themselves.

By the time you have reached the end of the instructional period, you should be feeling comfortable with your student's ability to drive a vehicle, but know that young driver's have a history of getting involved in crashes because of adolescent-related attitudes, high-risk behavior, and lack of experience. Pick a time when you and your student driver can talk about these issues.

Point out that competitiveness, aggression, inexperience, a sense of power and invincibility, and the temptations of independence are all influences that cause young drivers to drive dangerously.

Not comfortable teaching a certain skill set? Let us know, and we will be happy to have our instructors cover the topic! We offer private driving lessons in blocks of two hours. We encourage an open communication line between the parent/student and our school. Please feel free to tell our instructors the areas that students need the most help with!

go ahead start driving



Driver Name:

Date	Parent	What Was Practiced	Amount of Time	Hours to Date

Notes

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