



DRIVER'S ED PARENT GUIDEBOOK

Achievement unlocked! You have now entered the advanced levels of parenting. Teaching a teen to drive is challenging, but we are here to support you and your new driver through the entire licensing process.



OUR APPROACH

You're reading this guide because you are a parent or guardian who gives a dang about your child and their safety. We know you are nervous and we know you understand the risks and responsibility of having a teen driver under your roof. So here's what we're NOT going to do: We are not going to throw frightening statistics and scare tactics at you. Instead, we are going to set you up for success and give you practical tips for making your teen a safe, responsible & polite new driver.

At The Next Street, our goal is make getting a license as easy as possible. We are with the student through every step of the license process so that parents or guardians can relax and take a back seat (for once!)

We encourage students to manage their driver's ed program themselves. Driving is a responsibility and privilege that requires a high level of maturity and accountability. Managing their driver's ed program on their own is a low risk exercise in developing essential life skills and will also prove to parents if the teen is mature enough for the responsibility of operating a vehicle. That's right...put the responsibility on your new driver to research, enroll, cancel and reschedule their classes or driving lessons, make sure they are meeting their eligibility requirements and booking their road test. Students can manage their schedule and appointments in the student portal right from the comfort of their phone or laptop! You as the parent/driving coach can always check in to see that they are on track.

Should you need to get in touch with an actual human, we do have a full time customer happiness team that can be reached via text, chat, email and for the extra adventurous teens....the phone!



**BE
BRAVE**

CONNECTICUT'S NEW DRIVER REQUIREMENTS

Teen drivers are defined as 16 and 17 year olds in Connecticut. Also defined as: hormonal tornadoes with under developed brains and rapidly changing emotions. Because of this, there are additional requirements that need to be met for new drivers under 18 that wish to obtain their license.

In order to begin the license process in Connecticut a teen must be 16 years old to enroll in driver's ed and take their permit test.

Unfortunately, your teen cannot get a permit from The Next Street and cannot take the permit test with us. They can take some practice tests([here](#)) and download our permit prep e-book([here](#)) but to get the real thing, you've gotta go to the keeper of the learner permit: [THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES](#).

We recommend having your teenager schedule their permit test appointment [online](#) as they approach their 16th birthday. The DMV can schedule these appointments weeks in advance depending on the location. A list of required documents your teen will need to bring to the DMV on the day of their permit test can be found [here](#).

Teens must hold their permit for **120 days** if they enroll in a **full 30 hr Driver's Education** course or **180 days** if they take the **8 hour Safe Driving Course**. No matter which class is selected, teen drivers must log a minimum of 40 hours of behind the wheel training. We sell 8 hours of lessons with a professional driving instructor as part of our Full Driver Education Course Package. While you can buy additional driving lessons with The Next Street (as many as you need!) the remaining hours of practice must be completed with a parent or qualified trainer in between lessons with The Next Street. Each student and family dynamic is different. If you have the patience, knowledge and confidence to teach your teen, then we have the resources to help you. Check out our driving maneuver playlists on [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#) to learn how our professional instructors teach the essentials.

If you're thinking, "Hmm, that doesn't sound like my skill set" you may buy ALL 40 hours of lessons with a professional driving instructor. Repeat after us: THERE IS NO SHAME IN THROWING MONEY AT TEEN DRIVER TRAINING.

Once they have held their permit for 120/180 days, completed driver's education, logged 40 hours behind the wheel, they are eligible to test. The test is a 20-30 min behind the wheel assessment administered by a DMV agent. If they pass, they are given a temporary license that is good for 30 days. Their real license will arrive in the mail within 2 weeks.

My teenager is practically jumping out of their skin trying to get behind the wheel. Is there anything we can do prior to turning 16?

Why, yes so glad you asked! Your teen may enroll in our Permit Prep Tutoring course. For more info on this product, [go here](#). Our permit prep tutoring course takes a guided approach to digesting the CT driver's manual and the types of questions that appear on the learner's permit test. This 2 hour class is taught live on zoom with an instructor who can answer any questions regarding the knowledge test or content that may be asked. For the low price of \$49, you can pretty much guarantee that your teen will not have to return to the DMV to re-take the learner's permit. To sum it up....WORTH IT.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN DRIVER TRAINING

While we advise parents to let their teen manage their driver's ed program, it is important for the parent to take on an active role in the process. Starting at age 12, your child is watching your driving habits behind the wheel. Creeping through stops signs, not using a blinker, texting while driving all sends the subconscious message that these behaviors are acceptable, despite being told otherwise.

Teaching driving skills to a new driver can be difficult even for the most skilled drivers. Sometimes our driving skills are so ingrained that we as adults with a lot of experience have a hard time explaining how to perform different driving maneuvers. The most important thing is that you remain calm and patient with your teen while they're learning to drive. Speak calmly and quietly. Learning to drive is like learning to play a musical instrument. Our instructors can teach the skills but they will only be mastered if you are practicing them between lessons.

Every teen is different and driving skills develop at different rates. Unless your teen has been driving tractors since birth, we recommend starting VERY slow at first (ie: don't try merging onto the Merritt Parkway at rush hour!) Go to a parking lot and practice accelerating and braking. Then try some turning and reversing in a straight line. If your teen seems ready, try out some low traffic secondary roads to build confidence and work on lane positioning and speed modulation. From here you can work together with your teen's driving instructor to reinforce what skills were covered during their lesson and work on any skills that the instructor feels need more work.

We have a printable driving log to keep your at home practice organized [here](#). Keep in Mind: Even if your teen passes their license test, your role as driving coach doesn't end there. The requirements for obtaining a graduated driver license should be considered the bare minimum in skills and driver knowledge mastery. New drivers still need additional practice to become a safe, experienced driver.

The State Mandated Parent Class

In the state of CT all teen students must have a parent attend the 2 hour New Driver Parent Class with them. We offer this course multiple times per week and it is included in both 8 hr and 30 hr classroom products. We know this class sounds about as fun as watching paint dry but we promise you'll be glad you went. Our professional instructors are entertaining and truly care about setting your family up for success. You will get all of the information you need to help your teen become a safe driver.

FAQ:

- Yes, the class is required for every 16 and 17 year old license applicant.
- "There are no exceptions" -THE DMV
- Sorry, you can't pay us extra to be the exception.
- Good news! Only ONE parent or legal guardian needs to go. We will let you duke that one out at home.
- Yes, it has to be a parent or legal guardian. You can't call in FUNcle Bob.
- Yes, if you attended last year with your first born, you need to attend again with your second born this year and if you've got even more kids, I'm sorry. We offer a sibling discount as a consolation prize.
- If you've attended the parent class upwards of 4 times, you might as well apply for a job as a driving instructor. We offer paid training and competitive benefits packages. [Check out our careers site!](#)
- If you've got twins or two kids taking driver's ed at the same time, this is probably the only way you can get a 2 for 1 class. High five.

like this



not this



TEEN LEARNER'S PERMIT & LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

Permit Restrictions for 16 & 17-year-olds

State of Connecticut



Must be at least 16 years old.



No driving alone. You must have a qualified trainer seated next to you at all times.



Seat belts must be worn by everyone present in the vehicle.



No cell phones or hand held devices with a video screen - including GPS!



No passengers allowed in the vehicle besides a qualified trainer.

(Exception: A parent/guardian may ride along on lessons w a licensed driving instructor)

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Who can be a Qualified trainer?

Anyone at least 20 years of age, that has a minimum of 4 years of driving experience and no suspensions in the last 4 years.

Can a younger sibling be in the car while my teen is learning to drive?

Nope. Only qualified trainers are permitted in the vehicle while you are learning to drive.

What are the consequences for driving alone with a permit?

When caught, a teen could have to wait until age 18 (sometimes 21!) in order to apply for a license. In addition, they could receive a fine of between \$75 and \$90. Bottom line: it is not worth the risk.

Driver License Restrictions for 16 & 17-year-olds

State of Connecticut



Passenger

For the first six months:

- Parent/legal guardian (one of whom has a valid license)
 - Licensed driving instructor
 - Person providing instruction who is at least 20 years old, has held a license for at least 4 years with no suspensions during the last 4 years.
- (Exemptions: employment, school, religious activities, medical necessities)

For the second 6 months:

- Drive with the above as well as immediate family.



Curfew

May not drive between the hours of 11 p.m. - 5 a.m.



Seatbelts

All passengers in vehicle must use permanently installed seat belts.



Cell phones, etc

May not use cell phones (even if hands-free) or other mobile electronic devices while driving.

*Passenger and curfew restrictions do not apply to active members of a volunteer fire (or ambulance) company or department responding to an emergency

HOUSE RULES

AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Setting expectations early with your teen is a good way to keep them safe and avoid any unnecessary (...or additional) arguments over the privilege of driving. We recommend this only because we have heard it all from every type of parent and family dynamic. Young brains do not fully develop until age 25 (or later...) The part of the brain that is responsible for impulse control and risk assessment is exactly the part that takes the longest to develop. Rules are a bum out but necessary. Again, every teen and every family is different. Some teens are nervous and will never test boundaries while others see boundaries and challenge them. We are not here to tell you how to parent but we are here to help. If you're not sure what expectations and rules to set here are some great ones from other parents:

- For emergencies, set a unique ringtone for family calls and texts. If that ring tone is heard, the teen knows to drive to a safe parking lot and return the call. Otherwise the phone is to be out of reach and never to be used while driving.
- Do not text or call your teen when you know they are driving unless in an emergency.
- No driving with another teen (driver or passenger) after 11pm including weekends.
- Make sure your teen has access to emergency cash via a card or digital wallet
- Access to roadside assistance service, ride app or cab company in the event of an emergency and instruction on when to use these services and how
- Make yourself available when possible to drive your teen where they need or want to go. If you make asking for a ride stressful, your teen may seek out other unsafe arrangements.
- Never get into a car with someone that is intoxicated. No matter their age or relationship to the teen.
- Never ride in a car that has more passengers than seatbelts.

Possible consequences for breaking any of your house rules:

- Loss of car privileges
- Loss of license (either from law enforcement or you the parent)
- Monetary (fines for breaking the law, deduction in allowance)
- Loss of other privileges (little Johnny can't go to the party if they decided to be a rebel in the car)
- Drop your teen off at school every day, blaring Celine Dion for all to enjoy.



INSURING A TEEN DRIVER

We know, one more scary thing to consider...The cost of insuring a new driver. There is a lot to consider. Every family has different needs and circumstances and there isn't always a one-size-fits-all answer. We can give you the insurance minimums mandated by the state but only you can decide what insurance your family actually needs. If you want help on choosing the correct policy or coverage for your teen, we are partners with Smith Brothers and they offer a free consultation to all Next Street Students and parents. [Go here](#) to set up your free consult.

What you MUST have:

CT State Insurance requirements are 25/50/25. \$25,000 maximum of bodily injury per individual, \$50,000 maximum of bodily injury per incident, and \$25,000 maximum for property damage per incident.

What you SHOULD have:

A more realistic minimum is \$250,000 maximum of bodily injury per individual, \$500,000 maximum of bodily injury per incident and \$100,000 maximum for property damage per incident. In comparison, it is not that much more expensive to have higher amounts of coverage, so it is encouraged and very much worth it to settle on better coverage.

Determining Pricing for Insurance

Coverages, amount of drivers in the family, driving records, location, and type of car are included in the factors that determine the price of insurance. Just by being a graduate of The Next Street's quality educational program, your teen could be rewarded with a discount by your insurance company. Additionally, if your child is an A or B student, your insurance provider could offer additional discounts. Not every insurance provider offers these discounts so be sure to check!

CHOOSING A SAFE VEHICLE

Your first car may have been a little questionable in the "reliable" department and while it seems like a good idea to buy something old or inexpensive, the insurance industry suggests you buy a newer vehicle for your teen to drive instead of an old clunker. Late model vehicles tend to have better crash test results due to modern technology and design.

Other things to consider when shopping for a car for your teen:

- Avoid tiny cars.
- If your teen will be driving a large SUV or pick up truck, be sure to go the extra mile and educate them on how to properly operate these types of vehicles as they can be at a higher risk for rolling.
- Anything that is "sporty" or fast is probably one to avoid for obvious reasons.
- Check in with consumer reporting resources on reliability and cost of ownership for the vehicle you are considering.
- Check the history of the vehicle by looking up the vehicle's VIN on a vehicle history reporting site.
- Schedule an inspection of the vehicle with a trusted mechanic.

If your used vehicle meets the following specifications, the CT used car warranty law covers certain used car purchases from licensed CT dealerships.

- Owner has paid at least \$3000 for the vehicle.
- The vehicle is 6 years old or less.
- The vehicle is used for personal, family or household use.

The used car warranty law states:

The dealer must repair the vehicle at no charge up to 30 days or 1500 miles after the purchase date if the owner paid at least 3k and up to 60 days or 3000 miles after the purchase date if the owner paid up to 5k. [For more info go here.](#)



Tips For Driving With Your Teen

For more help,
contact us:



860.631.4292
thenextstreet.com

Worried about getting on the road with your teen that is learning to drive? The Next Street has you covered with some helpful tips to ensure you and your teen's safety and comfort!



Stay calm no matter what



Commit to a practice schedule (they need more practice than just their driver's ed course!)



Introduce them to different scenarios (rain, driving at night, etc.)



Discuss safety risks (seatbelts, speeding, phone usage, etc.)



Follow our [YouTube](#) and [TikTok](#) channels to review how professional driving instructors teach basic driving maneuvers



DRIVE POLITELY™

Ready to Enroll?

Get started on the easiest road to your teen's license.

With the most classroom schedule availability in Connecticut and over 70 driving lesson locations, we have a program that fits even the busiest schedules!

**Go to www.thenextstreet.com to enroll online
or call our Customer Happiness Center at 860-631-4292.**