

# Recent Changes in Driver Education

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## Effective January 1, 2008

- Extends learner's permit period to nine months.
- Extends nighttime curfews to drivers up to 17 years old.
- Moves up the weekday curfew to 10 p.m. from 11 p.m. and to 11 p.m. from midnight on weekends. Exceptions are made if driving with an adult, to and from work or school, or emergencies.
- Extends to 12 months the time during which a new driver, under the age of 18, may carry only one unrelated passenger under the age of 20, excluding siblings.
- Allows ticketing for all passengers age 15 to 20 for riding in the car driven by a new driver.
- Requires that new drivers have 6 months violation free driving with a GDL (Graduated Driver License) before the age of 18 before becoming eligible for an unrestricted GDL license. With the 9 permit months, that means 15 months violation free driving is required before becoming eligible for a full license.
- Establishes tough new sanctions for street racing and strengthens sanctions for repeat violations for any drivers under the age of 21.

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## Effective January 1, 2010

- A driver may not type, send or read a text message while operating a motor vehicle, except if the vehicle is parked on the shoulder of a roadway and the gear shift is in the neutral or park position. GPS systems and navigational equipment are exempt
- Wireless phone use while driving is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency