

DPS Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program

The DPS Graduated Driver License (GDL) program was implemented January 1, 2002 to give new drivers the chance to improve their driving skills over time with supervised training and practice and to hopefully lower the amount of loss of life for this high-risk age group.

Phase One (Learner License)

Individuals who are under 18 years of age must hold a valid learner license or a hardship license for a minimum of six months prior to the issuance of a provisional Class C driver license. Under the GDL program, there is not a minimum time a person must hold a restricted motorcycle or moped license before he/she can apply for a Class M license.

Individuals transferring and presenting a valid **out-of-state learner license** but not able to provide proof of successfully completing a teen driver education course, will be issued a Texas learner license. This Texas learner license must be held for 6 months or until the age of 18 whichever comes first, regardless of previous time learner license held in another state.

If a learner license is suspended during Phase One, the initial six-month period increases by the number of days of the suspension because the license is invalid during that time.

Phase Two (Provisional License)

Phase Two restricts the driving privileges of individuals who are under 18 years of age.

Once they have held a valid learner license or hardship license for a minimum of six months (180 days) and reached the age of 16, and has completed both the classroom and behind-the-wheel portions of driver education, and completed the Impact Texas Teen Driver Program (ITTDTP), they are eligible to take the driving test for their provisional license. Upon receiving a passing score of 70 or above on the driving test the minor may be issued a provisional license and 'graduate' to Phase Two of the Graduated Driver License Program.

Individuals at least 16 years of age that present a **valid out-of-state learner license** and proof of successful completion of a teen driver education course, and completed the Impact Texas Teen Drivers Program (ITTDTP) they also are eligible to take the driving test. Upon receiving a passing score of 70 or above on the driving test the minor may be issued a provisional license.

Provisional License Restrictions

These individuals may not drive a motor vehicle:

- With more than one passenger in the vehicle under the age of 21 who is not a family member.
- Between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless the operation of the vehicle is necessary for the driver to work, to attend or participate in a school activity, or due to a medical emergency.
- While using a wireless communication device, including a hands-free device, until they reach the age of 18, except in the case of an emergency.
- While texting (All drivers in Texas are prohibited from texting as of Sep 1, 2017)