



What Every Teen & Parent Needs to Know About Driver Education

The purpose of this document is to provide you with the knowledge necessary to intelligently decide what type of driver education is best for your child.

Courtesy of the



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Hopefully this document will act as a step-by-step guide for you, so let's start your journey from the beginning.

Insurance

When a person turns 16, they (or their parents) need to carefully examine how they plan on insuring this new driver to ensure they receive proper coverage and avoid excessive costs.

The vast majority of teens go on their parents' insurance plan.

We strongly recommend that once a child obtains a learner's permit that their parents contact their insurance carrier and inform them that they now have someone with a learner's permit driving some or all of their vehicles. There is not usually a change in premium at this stage for the parents, but you do want to make certain that you have coverage for a driver with a learner's permit.

Additionally, you will want to ask your insurance carrier the following question:

“What will be the cost of my insurance if my child is professionally trained? What will the cost be if he/she is home schooled?”

In the state of Connecticut any minor obtaining a driver's license can go about their training in two ways, home schooled or professionally trained.

The answer to this question
May dictate what type of
Driver education your child receives



Many of our student's parents find:

- They save hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars a year on their auto insurance by having their child professionally schooled
- And since a 16 year old may be on a parent's policy for 5 years or more, the savings can be substantial

Some insurance carriers offer savings based on the student's high school academic performance. It is important to keep in mind that insurance is a commodity and if you are not happy with the new price your present insurance carrier gives you it is easy and often financially beneficial to shop other insurance providers.

All 16 & 17 year olds who want learn how to drive must obtain a permit prior to taking any on-road instruction

Note: students may take classroom instruct prior to obtaining a permit, but they must be 16 years old to begin Driver Education.



You must provide the CT DMV with proper identification and successfully complete a 25 question test to obtain a permit. To learn what type of documentation is necessary visit:

<http://highridgedrivingschool.com/Permit.html>

Your driver's test date...

Depends on your permit date.

The date a child receives their permit dictates when they can test for their license, not their birthday.

- Professionally trained students can test for their driver's license after completing their driver education and *holding their permit for 121 days.*
- Home Schooled students must finish their training and *hold their permit for 181 days* before they can take their driver's license exam.

In a future portion of this booklet we explain the differences between professionally trained and home schooled driver training.

A student with a permit:

- May only drive in the state of Connecticut.
- Must be accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 20 years of age, and who has had a license for more than 4 years and has not had his or her license suspended.
- May drive with one or both parents but must have no other passengers in the car.
- Must not drive on a multiple-lane, limited-access highway until 60 days after issuance of the permit or 30 days if accompanied by a certified driving school instructor.

At 16 years of age, a student can enroll in a driver education program at an approved school such as the High Ridge Driving School.



Professionally Trained - Our Full Teen Course meets the state requirement for a professionally trained program and it includes:

- 30 hours of classroom instruction, which will contain 8 hours of safe driving practices, including a 2 hour parent training unit.
- A minimum 8 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

A student is permitted to take no more than 2 hours of classroom training in any one day; He or she may take 4 hours of driver's training if that training consists of 2 hours of classroom and 2 hours of behind-the-wheel training.

At the High Ridge Driving School we teach the classroom portion of the curriculum Monday through Thursday from 6:00pm to 8:10pm. There are 15 different classes that make up the classroom portion of our curriculum:

- Each class is modular so they can be taken in any order
- All 15 classes must be attended to complete that portion of our curriculum
- The only class that requires you to sign up in advance is class #14 - that is the class that requires a parent to attend with the student.

Our Full Teen Course Comes With 8-Hours of On-Road Training

On-road instruction at a driving school is much different than learning to drive on the family car. First of all, a driving school instructor must complete an extensive training program and pass an exhaustive testing process that includes background checks, physicals, written and practical testing.



Additionally, all driving school instruction must be done in a certified dual control driving school vehicle.

All those things make the professional training process unique, but the biggest difference should be in the instructor's approach to driver education. At the High Ridge Driving School we offer a comprehensive on-road driving curriculum designed to enable the student to safely maneuver a car in all the different road conditions we face living here in Fairfield County, CT.

Here's an example of the items we cover in our on-road curriculum:

- ✓ Pre-Driving Protocol
- ✓ Following Distance
- ✓ Braking Distance
- ✓ Speed Limits
- ✓ Seeing Distance and Scanning
- ✓ Traffic Controls (Signs)
- ✓ Traffic Controls (Lights)
- ✓ Traffic Controls (People)
- ✓ Intersections and Turning
- ✓ Right of Way
- ✓ Physics and Car Control
- ✓ Lane Changes
- ✓ Passing
- ✓ Three-Point Turn
- ✓ Angle Parking Left
- ✓ Angle Parking Right
- ✓ Backing Out of Parking Space Left
- ✓ Backing Out of Parking Space Right
- ✓ Driving Straight Out of Parking Space
- ✓ Backing Into Parking Space Right & Left
- ✓ Parallel Parking
- ✓ Exiting Parallel Parking Space
- ✓ Procedures For Highway
- ✓ Entering Highway
- ✓ Blind Spot/Space Avoidance
- ✓ Exiting Highway

To learn more about this class visit:

HighRidgeDrivingSchool.com/Teen_Course.html

Upon successfully completing our Full Teen Course the student will receive a CS-1 that is required by the DMV to take a driving test (remember you must complete the course and hold a permit for 121 days).

The CS-1 certificate is required for the student to receive a discounted insurance rate from his or her insurance carrier.

Home Schooled - Another Option
 If the student elects not to participate in our Full Teen course he or she must complete a state-certified 8-hour Safe Driving Practices/Drug and Alcohol Course, including a 2 hour parent training section.



At the High Ridge Driving School we teach this course at least once per month.

To learn more about this class visit:

HighRidgeDrivingSchool.com/Drug_Alcohol.html

Upon successfully completing our 8-Hour Safe Driving Practices/ Drug & Alcohol Course the student will receive a CS-1 that is required by the DMV to take a driving test (remember you must complete the course and hold a permit for 181 days) and you will not be eligible for a discounted insurance rate from your insurance carrier.

Connecticut Driver's License Teen Checklist

For a 16 or 17 year old to test for and receive their Driver's License, a student must have either:

- ✓ Held his or her Learner's Permit for a minimum of 121 days
- ✓ Completed an entire driver education course with a commercial driver education school such as High Ridge Driving School
- ✓ And had at least 40 hours of behind-the-wheel experience, including at least 32 hours with a parent or guardian and 8 hours with a commercial driving school.

-OR

- ✓ Held his or her Learner's Permit for a minimum of 181 days,
- ✓ Completed a state-certified 8-hour Drug & Alcohol/Safe Driving Practices Course, including a 2 hour parental training unit
- ✓ And had at least 40 hours behind-the-wheel instruction with a parent or guardian

You Can Take Your Driving Test at the High Ridge Driving School

You can take your driver's test at a full-service CT DMV branch (call 800-842-8222 to schedule) or at the High Ridge Driving School. If you choose to take the driving test at our school you will be able to complete the forms and submit them to the DMV through us.

You will:

- Turn in your paperwork with us
- Take the driving portion of the test at our school
- Upon passing the test you must go to the Norwalk DMV to take the written Final Exam.

To learn more about taking your test at the High Ridge Driving School Visit:

http://highridgedrivingschool.com/Off_site_testing.html