

What Every Teen & Parent



Needs to Know About Driver Education

An Educational/Informational Document
Courtesy of the:



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You might be asking, “why did we create this document?” Working in this business you see numerous parents and teenagers who are confused or misinformed about the driver training process and hopefully this document will help. So, that’s why we have created *What Every Teen & Parent Needs to Know About Driver Education*.

We hope this booklet helps you avoid any frustration, confusion and time wasted. But before we move forward, it’s important for you to know that there is another important reason we have created this booklet...

We want to make sure you choose the correct driver training for you and your child!

With that in mind, here is a helpful comparison of your driving school options:

If you are considering a driving school in the Greenwich area, visit this website for a comparison of the different driving schools:

<http://drivingcoursegreenwichct.com/>

If you are considering a driving school in the New Canaan area, visit this website for a comparison of the different driving schools:

<http://newcanaandrivingschool.com/>

If you are considering a driving school in the Stamford area it is important for you to know that there is not another driving school (besides the High Ridge Driving School) that offers teen only driver’s education classes.

Hopefully this document will act as a step-by-step guide for you, but please keep in mind things can and do change regarding laws and procedures at the DMV, so please be sure to check our website (or theirs) if you have any doubts.

Now, 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. Usually there is not any 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.

STOP... make sure you 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 one of two ways (both require some attendance at a driving school. Your options are to be:

- ✓ Home Schooled
- ✓ Professionally Trained

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



Many of our student's parents find:

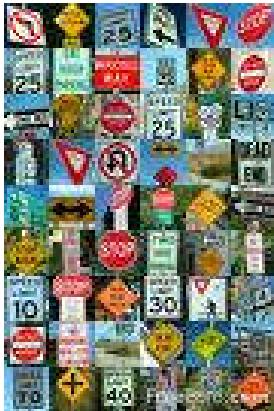
- They save hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars a year on their auto insurance by having their child professionally schooled

- 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 begin taking classroom instruct prior to obtaining a permit, but they must be 16 years old to begin ANY Driver Education.



You must provide the CT DMV with proper identification and successfully complete a 25 question test to obtain a permit (answer 20 questions correctly). 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:

- Should 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 Wednesday from 6:00pm to 8:10pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30pm to 5:30pm. **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 along 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, the Full Teen Class visit:

HighRidgeDrivingSchool.com/Teen_Course.html

Upon successfully completing our Full Teen Course the student will receive a CS-1 certificate 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 the Teen Drug & Alcohol course EVERY weekend. No driving school offers you more options.

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 certificate that must be presented to the DMV when you arrive 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 a Full Teen 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 obtain your license.

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

Visit:

http://highridgedrivingschool.com/Off_site_testing.html

And once you have your license, we hope you are a good and safe driver.

If we can help you answering any other questions you may have regarding the driver training process please reach out to us!

