

Colorado State | Drivers Education Age Requirements Navigator:



What does my age group need to accomplish in order to get a driver's permit and eventually a driver's license?

Ages 14½ – 15½ :

- Must complete a **30-hour** state-certified driver's education course (online or in-person) to take the written permit test
- You can start your driver's education at 14 ½ but must be 14 years & 11 months of age to take the permit test, but you cannot be **issued your actual permit until you turn 15**
- Take and pass the permit test

Ages 15½ – 16 :

- Must take a 4-hour accelerated driver awareness program OR 30-hour drivers education course (online or in-person)
- Take and pass the permit test

Ages 16 ½ – < 18 :

- Study Colorado Driver Handbook and take permit test either with certified driving school or with DMV
- Take and pass permit test

The "permit test" is also referred to as the driving knowledge test. Permit tests can be taken either through a certified driving school or through the DMV.

Once you've successfully passed your permit test, you will need to make an appointment through your local DMV to obtain your permit:

**Driving schools can only issue the permit test, but your state DMV issues the official permit.*

Ages 15 – < 16 ½ years old, after obtaining your permit you must:

- Hold the permit for **12 months**
- Complete **6 hours** of professional behind-the-wheel training with a certified driving instructor
- Log **50 hours** of supervised driving time (10 hrs at night) with parent or legal guardian

Ages 16 ½ – < 18 years old, after obtaining your permit you must:

- Hold permit **1 year** from issue date **OR turn 18**, whichever comes first, to be eligible to take your driver's license test
- Log **50 hours** of supervised driving time (10 hrs at night) with parent or legal guardian, **OR turn 18**, whichever comes first

Once you meet your age group's eligibility requirements to take the official driver's license test, you must schedule an appointment through a certified driving school, as the DMV no longer administers license tests. [Navigate to the DMV here to find a local drive testing site near you](#)



Passed Your Driver's License Test? Congrats! Now:



Visit the [DMV website](#), select your age group, and review the required list of identification and documentation. You can either schedule an appointment to get issued your license or, you can upgrade a permit to a license online at mydmv.colorado.gov under 'Driver/ID Services' tab → 'Upgrade from a permit to a license.'

BUT WAIT! Drivers Education Requirements Are Changing in April 2026



See How It Affects Your Age Group:

Permit Eligibility:

Ages 15 – <18:

- Must complete a state- certified **30-Hour drivers education course (online or in-person)** in order to take the permit test and obtain a driver's permit

Ages 18 – 21:

- Must complete EITHER a 30-Hour drivers education course OR a 4-hour accelerated driver awareness program (online or in-person) in order to take the permit test and obtain a driver's permit

Driver's License Eligibility:

Ages 16 – 16 ½:

After obtaining your permit you must:

- Hold permit for **12 months**
- Complete **6 hours** of professional behind-the-wheel training
- Log **50 hours** of supervised driving time (10 hrs at night)

Ages 16 ½ – < 18 years:

- *No professional behind-the-wheel training requirement*
- Hold permit 1 year from issue date OR turn 18 to be eligible to take your driver's license test.
- Log 50 hours of supervised driving (10 hrs at night) with parent or legal guardian, OR turn 18, whichever comes first

Ages 18 – 21:

- NO professional behind-the-wheel training is required, but you are still required to obtain a driver's permit, and then immediately after issuance you are eligible to take the official driver's license test

Stay Up to Date:



Permit requirements here: dmv.colorado.gov/minor-permit | **License requirements here:** dmv.colorado.gov/minor-license

General driver's education resources in your area: dmv.colorado.gov/driveducation

How are drivers ed laws changing?

- leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1021
- April 1, 2026 = New law becomes active.
- January 1, 2027 = the specific education requirements for instruction permits take effect for applicants
 - This kind of staggered timeline is common so the system has time to adjust without disrupting current applicants



Questions or Support: Contact DeborahH@baroned.com or 720-576-0957