

Driver Education

As a teen, if you want to get your license when you are eligible, do not wait to start your training or procrastinate getting it done. Many driver ed. schools are booked out 5-6 months.

#1 – Teens can and should start the online course a month prior to obtaining their permit. There is no need to contact or pay a local driving school to sign up for an online course. Compare prices. Cost can range from around \$50 to \$99.

Online courses can be found on the state's website:

otso.ohio.gov/programs/ohio-driver-training

#2 – Training can and should start before the teen obtains their permit. The training is referred to as “running commentary”. This is where a parent or other trusted adult drives and verbally explains the driving situation ahead. Once the teen understands what they should be looking for, then the teen verbally explains the driving situation ahead while the adult drives. The purpose of this type of training is to develop the mental processing of driving situations ahead before the teen starts driving.

#3 – Prior to taking the permit test, study the Ohio Driver Manual Digest of Motor Vehicle Laws which can be found on the link below:

publicsafety.ohio.gov/who-we-are/resources/digest-of-motor-vehicle-laws

The permit test can be taken online (bmvonline.dps.ohio.gov) or at the BMV. If the test is taken online, then you will need to go to the BMV within 60 days to purchase the permit. Please refer to the Driver Manual for documents required.

#4 – A teen should complete their online course as soon as possible. Once the online course is completed and you have received a certificate of completion, a teen can now register with a driver ed. school for their in-car training.

The “fifty hours” need not be completed to start the in-car training. It only needs to be completed prior to taking the state driving test. Per the new rules of the state, all driving time after March 30th, 2026 is required to be documented. Hours can be documented on the Fifty Hour Affidavit which can be downloaded from the BMV's website or using the RoadReady Ohio app on your phone.

The in-car training with a driving school does not apply towards the fifty hours.

A teen can drive with other adults approved by the parent. This is recommended for a few reasons. #1 – allows for different perspectives; #2 – extremely valuable to help if only one parent or if both parents work; #3 – due to the parent-child relationship, can cause excessive stress for both. Suggested “other adults” – aunts, uncles or grandparents. If under 16, a parent needs to complete an “In Loco Parentis Affidavit” for each person their child drives with.

If you have any questions about driver education training, feel free to call or text any local driver ed. school.