



DRIVER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (Prince William County Example)

Requirements for Learner's Permit

Completed at Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Office:

- Must be at least 15 years and 6 months of age.
- When applying for a learner's permit, you must complete an Application for a Virginia Driver's License (form [DL 1P](#)). Complete driver license or driver privilege card application form.
- Check the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles web site at <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/#eligibility.asp> to find the list of documents that will be accepted for proof of identity and legal presence.
- Pass a multiple-choice sign and knowledge test.
- Pass a vision test.
- Licensed driver over 21 must be seated next to teen driver with a learner's permit.
- Student must hold a learner's permit for at least 9 months and be at least 16 years and 3 months in age.

Classroom Driver Education Instruction

Classroom driver education is part of the Health and Physical Education II curriculum. All students will receive at least 36 class periods of in-class driver education instruction. This instruction must include units on organ donation, alcohol and drugs, motorcycle awareness, aggressive driving, and distracted driving.

To Begin Behind-the-Wheel Instruction (in Prince William County Public Schools)

The student must:

- Have a valid learner's permit.
- Have driven a minimum of two hours with parent supervision before taking behind-the-wheel instruction. **Ten hours of on-road driving** is recommended before taking the range-and-road class.
- Turn in the required signed permission form(s).
- Pay \$240 online, money order, or check made out to Prince William County Public Schools.

Behind-the-Wheel Driver Education Instruction

- The state of Virginia requires 14 class periods of behind-the-wheel instruction.
- Class periods consist of range and road instruction. The road skills test will be given by the instructor after the student has successfully completed the behind-the-wheel instruction.

Requirements to Receive a 180-day Temporary Provisional Driver's License

- Student must hold a learner's permit for at least 9 months and be at least 16 years and 3 months in age.
- Student must successfully complete a state-approved driver education program, which includes classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction.

- Student must have a signed parent/guardian PWCS permission form, state form [PPF-16](#) , and completed a tire and oil homework assignment
- Parent/guardian must certify that their child has driven a motor vehicle for 45 hours, 15 of which must be after sunset. A log is in the [45-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide](#).
- Juvenile Licensing Ceremony – (within 180 days)
 - Family will receive notice to appear in court
 - Judge presents permanent driver’s license to parents
 - Ceremonies may be waived and driver’s license mailed in certain circumstances

Teen Driving Restrictions

- **Curfew** – Drivers under 18 are prohibited from driving midnight to 4 a.m. except when driving: to work; to a school, civic or religious activity; with a licensed parent; or in case of emergency. Check with your locality for other curfew restrictions.
- **Passengers** – Drivers under 18 may carry only one passenger under 21 unless with a licensed parent. After holding a license for one year, drivers may carry up to three passengers under 21 only if:
 - They are driving to a school-sponsored activity, or
 - A licensed driver 21 or older is in the front seat, or
 - There is an emergency.
 - Passenger restrictions do not apply to family members.
- **Safety belts** - Passengers younger than 18 years old who are occupying the front or rear seats of a vehicle must wear safety belts.

Conviction of the curfew or passenger restriction laws can result in driver’s license suspension.

REMINDER: [PHONE DOWN. IT’S THE LAW](#)

It is illegal for any driver to hold a handheld personal communications device while driving in Virginia.

Parenting Tips for In-car Guided Practice Sessions

Use the [45-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide](#) to help you and your son/daughter.

Parental reinforcement of safe driving skills and good decision making will lead to safe driving habits that will last a lifetime.

- Enjoy your time together. Have fun! This is a great “bonding” opportunity. Focus on the driving task and leave family issues at home.
- When you drive, set a good example to model. Children learn from the choices that adults make. Always wear your safety belt. Try to correct any unsafe driving habits that you may have acquired; such as rolling through stop signs, accelerating through yellow lights, exceeding the speed limit, etc.
- Always check to make sure your child has the learner’s permit, vehicle registration card, and insurance information when operating a vehicle.
- In a parking lot, practice steering the car with your left hand from the passenger seat.
- If you have a car with a parking brake between the seats, practice stopping the car by depressing the release button and raising the parking brake.
- Practice shifting the transmission from Drive to Neutral from the passenger seat to regain control of the vehicle in the event your child panics and accelerates too much.
- Adjust the mirror on the passenger’s sun visor so you can use it as a rearview mirror. If the right side view mirror is properly adjusted to reduce blind spot and glare for the driver, you can also use that mirror to monitor traffic to the rear from the passenger seat.
- Keep instructions simple and concise. First direct where to go, and then state the action to take (e.g., “At the next intersection, slow down and turn right.”) Enhance verbal instructions with hands signals (e.g., make a fist, extend your thumb and point and move your hand/arm several times in the direction you want your child to go.)

- Before giving instructions check mirrors and the space ahead and to the sides of the vehicle.
- Explain the objectives of the lesson and review what was learned in the previous lessons.
- If possible, the initial guided practice sessions should begin in a car with automatic transmission to allow your child to focus on mastering basic vehicle control skills.
- Select driving environments that complement the objectives of the lesson and your child's ability. Start in parking lots and progress to low volume neighborhood roads. Stay in a safe, low-risk driving environment as long as needed, and practice driving on routes that are familiar to your child.
- Feedback should be precise and immediate. Be patient, calm, and alert at all times. Make positive remarks frequently.
- If a mistake is made, repeat the maneuver taking your child step by step through the process, and then allow practice without any assistance.
- Have short, well-planned practice sessions. At the beginning, 30 minutes is the optimum period for learning. The first 20 minutes of each session should be used to introduce and practice new skills. Assess your child's understanding of the lesson objectives and skill acquisition during the second half of the session. Set high standards and evaluate each driving session together.
- **Encourage commentary driving!** This is the most valuable tool you have for checking how your child is processing the driving environment. Ask your child to "read the traffic picture aloud" describing anything that may affect your path of travel. For example, when your child changes speed, your child may say: "red light, check mirror, ease foot off accelerator and begin braking." Actually, you should hear "check mirror and ease off accelerator" a lot!
- Emphasize driving with a large anticipation zone by looking at least 20 seconds ahead. To determine 20 seconds ahead, select a stationary object in front of the vehicle and count how long it takes to reach that object. This will allow time to identify an escape route if needed, or an alternate path of travel.
- Play the "what if game"; what if a car suddenly changes lanes, stops, turns, etc.
- Reinforce that a green light means search the intersection before proceeding.
- Encourage your child not to panic if approached by an emergency vehicle, and to focus on looking for a safe area to pull over.
- Discuss the rules for passing a stopped school bus with flashing lights.
- Encourage your child to avoid making a difficult left turn whenever possible.
- There is a lot to learn in each lesson, so your child may need extra time to attain the necessary skills. Proficiency at each level is important before moving on to the next lesson.
- If possible, integrate practicing driving after sunset into each area of instruction.

