

Distracted Driving Laws by State

Updated April 2018

State	Hand-held Ban	All Cell Phone Ban		Text Messaging Ban	Crash Data
		School Bus Drivers	Novice Drivers		
Alabama			16, or 17 w/ Intermediate License <6 months (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Alaska				Yes (Primary)	Yes
Arizona		Yes (Primary)		<18 in GDL only (Secondary)	Yes
Arkansas ¹	18 - 20 years old (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<18 (Secondary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
California	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<18 (Secondary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Colorado			<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Connecticut	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	
Delaware	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
D.C.	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Learners Permit (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Florida				Yes (Secondary)	Yes
Georgia	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Guam	Yes (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	
Hawaii	Yes (Primary)		<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Idaho				Yes (Primary)	Yes
Illinois	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<19 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Indiana			<21 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Iowa			Restricted or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Kansas			Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Kentucky		Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Louisiana	Learner or Intermediate License (regardless of age)	Yes (Primary)	1st year of License (Primary for <18)	Yes (Primary)	Yes

Maine			Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Maryland	Yes (Primary)		<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Massachusetts		Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Michigan		Yes (Primary)	Level 1 or 2 License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Minnesota		Yes (Primary)	<18 w/ Learner or Provisional License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Mississippi		Yes (Primary)		Yes (Primary)	Yes
Missouri				<21 only (Primary)	Yes
Montana					Yes
Nebraska			<18 w/ Learner or Intermediate License (Secondary)	Yes (Secondary)	Yes
Nevada	Yes (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes (Primary)		<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	
New Jersey	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Permit or Provisional License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
New Mexico	In State vehicles		Learner or Provisional License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
New York	Yes (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	Yes
North Carolina		Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
North Dakota			<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Ohio			<18 (Primary)	Yes (Secondary)	Yes
Oklahoma	Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	Yes
Oregon	Yes (Primary)		<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Pennsylvania				Yes (Primary)	Yes

Puerto Rico	Yes (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	
Rhode Island	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
South Carolina				Yes (Primary)	Yes
South Dakota			Learner or Intermediate License (Secondary)	Yes (Secondary)	Yes
Tennessee	School zones only, while warning lights flashing	Yes (Primary)	Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (while vehicle in motion) (Primary)	Yes
Texas ²		Yes, w/ passenger <17 (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Utah		Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Vermont	Yes (Primary)		<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Virgin Islands	Yes (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	Yes
Virginia		Yes (Primary)	<18 (Secondary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Washington	Yes (Primary)		Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
West Virginia	Yes (Primary)		<18 w/ Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Wisconsin			Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Yes
Wyoming				Yes (Primary)	Yes
Total States	16 + D.C. PR, Guam, Virgin Islands All Primary	20 + D.C. All Primary	38 + D.C. Primary (32 + D.C.) Secondary (6)	All Drivers: 47 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands Primary (43 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands) Secondary (4) Novice Drivers Only: 2	48 + D.C., Virgin Islands

¹ Arkansas also bans the use of hand-held cell phones while driving in a school zone or in a highway construction zone. This law is secondarily enforced.

² Texas has banned the use of hand-held phones in school zones.