# Distracted Driving Laws by State

## Updated November 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Hand-held Ban</th>
<th>All Cell Phone Ban</th>
<th>Text Messaging Ban</th>
<th>Crash Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Bus Drivers</td>
<td>Novice Drivers</td>
<td>All Drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td></td>
<td>16, or 17 w/ Intermediate License &lt;6 months (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas ¹</td>
<td>18 - 20 years old (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Secondary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Secondary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.C.</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learners Permit (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (Secondary)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;19 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;21 (Primary) (eff. 7/2015)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td></td>
<td>Restricted or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td></td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (regardless of age)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>1st year of License (Primary for &lt;18)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Yes (Primary)</th>
<th>&lt;18 (Primary)</th>
<th>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</th>
<th>Yes (Primary)</th>
<th>Covered under all driver ban</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Level 1 or 2 License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>&lt;18 w/ Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Secondary)</td>
<td>Yes (Secondary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 w/ Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Permit or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>In State vehicles</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Secondary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Secondary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Provisional License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Distracted Driving (Primary)</th>
<th>Distracted Driving (Secondary)</th>
<th>Distracted Driving (Primary)</th>
<th>Distracted Driving (Secondary)</th>
<th>Enforcement Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td></td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Secondary)</td>
<td>Yes (Secondary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas 2</td>
<td>Yes, w/ passenger &lt;17 (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes, w/ passenger &lt;17 (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin Islands</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
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<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 (Secondary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Learner or Intermediate Licence (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>&lt;18 w/ Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Learner or Intermediate Licence (Primary)</td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (Primary)</td>
<td>Covered under all driver ban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total States</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands</td>
<td>20 + D.C.</td>
<td>38 + D.C.</td>
<td>46 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 and texting in school zones.