

Distacted Driving Laws by State

Updated February 2020

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

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

Puerto Rico	Yes (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban		
Rhode Island	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
South Carolina				Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
South Dakota			Learner or Intermediate License (Secondary)	Yes (Secondary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Tennessee	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Texas ²	No	Yes, w/ passenger <17 (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Utah		Yes (Primary)	<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Vermont	Yes (Primary)		<18 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Virgin Islands	Yes (Primary)			Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Virginia		Yes (Primary)	<18 (Secondary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Washington	Yes (Primary)		Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
West Virginia	Yes (Primary)		<18 w/ Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Wisconsin			Learner or Intermediate License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Wyoming				Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes	
Total States	21 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands All Primary	20 + D.C. All Primary	38 + D.C. Primary (32 + D.C.) Secondary (6)	46 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands Primary (41 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands) Secondary (5)	1 Primary	2 Primary	48 + D.C., Virgin Islands

¹ Arkansas also bans the use of handheld cellphones while driving in a school zone or in a highway construction zone. This law is secondarily enforced.

² Texas has banned the use of handheld phones and texting in school zones.