

Distracted Driving Laws by State

Updated April 2021

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) School and work zones (Secondary)	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)		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)			Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban		Yes
Illinois	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	<19 (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban		Yes
Indiana	Yes (Primary)		<21 (Primary) <i>(eff. 7/2015)</i>	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). Drivers in school zones (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Drivers under 18 (Primary)	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)	Yes, handheld ban. (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, handheld ban (Primary)	Level 1 or 2 License (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Covered under all driver ban	Yes
Minnesota	Yes (Primary)	Yes (Primary)	Drivers with learner under 18 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		Yes (Primary)	<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			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
Northern Mariana Islands	Yes (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)		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	Yes, in school crossing zones and on public school property only (Primary)	Yes, w/ minor passengers (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)	Yes (Primary)	No	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	24 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands All Primary	20 + D.C. All Primary	37 + D.C. Primary (31 + D.C.) Secondary (6)	48 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands Primary (41 + D.C., PR, Guam, Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands) Secondary (5)	1 Primary	2 Primary	48 + D.C., Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands
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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.