

South Dakota Graduated Driver Licensing

Car crashes continue to be the [number one cause of preventable death](#) for U.S. teenagers and driver inexperience is the root cause of these tragedies. NSC believes in the importance of parental involvement to keep new drivers safe and [DriveitHOME.org](#) is a free resource to help parents and caregivers get started. The program covers major risk factors for new drivers and offers solutions – from a parent-teen driving agreement to weekly driving lessons – all built around Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL).

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)

GDL is a national strategy to help young drivers slowly and safely get experience behind the wheel before having full driving privileges. This process typically begins with an initial learner's permit, then an intermediate or provisional license phase, and then finally full licensure.

While the specifics of GDL laws vary between states, they often have restrictions on passenger limits and nighttime driving to help keep our most vulnerable drivers safe. Crucially, they all rely on teens getting plenty of practice time behind the wheel with a responsible parent or caregiver. For more information or to learn about each state's GDL laws, visit [DriveitHOME.org](#).

South Dakota Laws	
Learner Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be at least 14 years old• Nine-month mandatory holding period (six months with driver education)• 50 hours of supervised driving required with 10 of those hours being at night and 10 hours must be during inclement weather
Intermediate Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be at least 14 years and nine months old (14.5 years old with driver education)• Nighttime driving restriction: 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.• First six months, no passengers• Thereafter, no more than one passenger younger than 18
Full Privilege Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nighttime driving restrictions are lifted at age 16• Passenger restrictions are lifted after six months or age 16

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)