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FLORIDA TEEN DRIVERS · A HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SCHOOL GUIDE

Florida Learner's Permit Requirements for Teens: Your Step-by-Step Guide

6 hrs	12 mo	50 hrs
Driver Ed (DETS)	Permit hold (or until 18)	Practice (10 at night)

Is your teen eligible? Florida age requirements

- **15+** Can get a learner's permit
- **16+** Eligible to take the driving test
- **18+** 12-month wait ends & night limits lift

TEEN does the course, exam, and driving. **PARENT** signs the required forms and supervises every practice drive.

What you need before you start

REQUIRED COURSE

The **6-hour Driver Education and Traffic Safety (DETS)** course. Every first-time driver under 18 must finish it before the Class E knowledge exam. Since Aug 1, 2025 it replaced the old 4-hour TLSAE for under-18 drivers. **Take the DETS course ›**

BRING TO THE DRIVER LICENSE OFFICE

1. **Proof of identity**
   U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, or permanent resident card.
2. **Proof of Social Security number**
   SSN card, W-2, or 1099 tax form.
3. **Two proofs of Florida address**
   Two different documents — a utility bill from about the last 60 days, a lease or mortgage statement, or a bank statement.
   TWO, AND THEY MUST DIFFER
4. **Parental Consent Form**
   A parent or guardian signs it at the office, or has it notarized beforehand.
   SIGNED IN PERSON OR NOTARIZED

What Florida asks for at the driver license office on permit day. Bring proof of identity and proof of your Social Security number. Bring two different proofs of Florida residential address. A parent or guardian must come to sign the consent form. A driver license or ID card does not count as address proof.

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PHASE 1 OF 3

How to get a Florida learner's permit at 15

Finish these four steps, in order, before you drive.

1 Complete the DETS course — TEEN

~6 hours

Take the **6-hour Driver Education and Traffic Safety (DETS)** course. Florida requires it for every first-time applicant under 18 before the Class E knowledge exam. Most teens finish it online at their own pace.

Good to know: DETS replaced the old 4-hour TLSAE for under-18 drivers on Aug 1, 2025 (SB 994 / Ch. 2025-104). Adults 18 and older still take TLSAE — the two courses side by side.

Next → **TEEN** finish the course and save your certificate.

2 Pass the Class E knowledge exam **TEEN**

30–60 min

The exam covers traffic laws, road signs, and safe driving. You must finish the DETS course first. You can take it two ways.

- **Online**, with a parent or guardian proctoring, or
- **In person** at a Florida driver license office.

PARENT **Online testing needs a special form.** Complete **FLHSMV Form 71144 (Parent/Guardian Online Test Proctoring Form)**, signed before a notary or a driver license examiner once the exam is done. **The form, field by field**. This is a *different* form from the Parental Consent Form in Step 4 — don't confuse them.

English-only exams. As of Feb 6, 2026, FLHSMV gives all knowledge and driving exams in **English only**. Interpreters, translators, and printed non-English exams are no longer allowed (ASL only to communicate in English). **What the rule means, and how to study for it**.

Next → **TEEN** study the free Florida Driver Handbook at flhsmv.gov. Warm up with the **free 20-question practice test**, then take the exam.

3 Gather your documents **BOTH**

Bring three kinds of proof. The address proof trips up the most families, so read it closely.

DOCUMENTS YOU'LL NEED

- **Proof of identity** — U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, or permanent resident card.
- **Proof of Social Security number** — SSN card, W-2, or 1099.
- **TWO different proofs of Florida home address** — a utility bill (~60 days), a lease/mortgage statement, or a bank/credit-card statement.

Watch out: Many families bring only one address document and get turned away. Bring **two different** ones — a driver license or ID does **not** count.

Next → Confirm the current list at **flhsmv.gov/WhatToBring** before you go.

4 Visit a Florida driver license office **BOTH**

TEEN bring every document from Step 3 plus your DETS certificate. You'll take an on-site **vision and hearing test**. **PARENT** if your teen is under 18, sign the **Parental Consent Form** — in person, or bring it **notarized**.

BRING WITH YOU

- All identity, SSN, and two-address documents from Step 3.
- DETS completion certificate.
- Parental Consent Form (signed in person or notarized).

Watch out: A **step-parent cannot** sign the consent form unless they've legally adopted the teen. If a parent can't attend, bring the form **notarized** ahead of time.

Next → Check real-time office wait times at **flhsmv.gov**, then go.

OFFICE-DAY CHECKLIST — EVERYTHING FOR THE COUNTER

- [ ] DETS completion certificate.
- [ ] Proof of identity.
- [ ] Proof of Social Security number.
- [ ] **Two different** proofs of Florida address.
- [ ] Parental Consent Form (signed or notarized).
- [ ] Form 71144, only if testing online.

Done! You now hold a Florida learner's permit. Next: start logging practice hours — on to Phase 2.

PHASE 2 OF 3

Practicing with a learner's permit: 12 months & 50 hours

Log your hours, stay violation-free, and build real skills.

When your teen can drive on a permit **TEEN**

DAY ONE
Permit issued at 15
Day one: the permit is issued and the twelve-month hold starts. For the first three months the teen may drive in daytime hours only.

MONTH 3
Driving until 10 p.m.
Month 3: the daytime-only restriction lifts and the teen may drive until 10 p.m. A licensed driver 21 or older still rides in the front passenger seat.

MONTH 12
Road test at 16
Month 12: the hold is complete. With 50 logged hours and the certification form signed, the teen can take the driving skills test.

Log 50 supervised hours, at least 10 of them after dark (months 0–12)

The permit year, counted from the day the permit is issued. For the first three months your teen drives in daylight only. After that, they can drive until 10 p.m. A licensed driver 21 or older rides in the front seat every time. The hold lasts 12 months, or until the teen turns 18. Along the way, 50 supervised hours go in the log, with at least 10 after dark.

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A licensed driver **21 or older** rides in the front passenger seat the whole time. Don't drive past your allowed hours, even for a quick trip.

Minimum wait
12 mo
Hold your permit a full 12 months. If your teen turns **18** first, the waiting period ends early.

Practice hours
50 hrs
50 hours total, at least 10 at night. There's no fixed daytime number — you need 50 total, and 10 or more after dark.

Who can supervise PARENT

A parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult who is **at least 21** and holds a valid license. They must ride in the **front passenger seat** for every practice session.

Stay violation-free TEEN

No moving-violation convictions in the 12 months from your permit issue date.

- **Disqualifying: any conviction**
- **One OK if adjudication withheld**

No passenger limit. Florida's graduated rules don't cap how many passengers a teen may carry. But extra passengers distract new drivers, so set a family rule.

Use the official practice log. Download the free Practice Driving Log from flhsmv.gov. Your supervising adult signs each entry — log **night hours separately**, and keep it safe for Phase 3.

12 months held and 50 hours logged (10 at night)? Next: get the certification form signed — on to Phase 3.

PHASE 3 OF 3

Getting your Florida Class E license at 16: the road test

Pass the road test and you're done.

ELIGIBILITY CHECK — CONFIRM ALL FOUR BEFORE THE ROAD TEST

- [ ] At least 16 years old.
- [ ] Held the learner's permit 12+ months (or turned 18).
- [ ] 50 hours of practice logged — 10 of them at night.
- [ ] No disqualifying moving-violation convictions.

5 Get the certification form signed PARENT

An adult 21 or older signs the **"Certification of Minor Driving Experience"** form. It confirms the teen completed 50 hours, including at least 10 at night.

BRING WITH YOU

- ✓ Completed Certification of Minor Driving Experience form.
- ✓ Practice Driving Log with all hours documented.

Next → Download the form at flhsmv.gov and fill it out completely before test day.

6 Prepare your vehicle BOTH

The examiner inspects the car **before** the test. If it fails inspection, the test is **canceled** — so check ahead.

BRING WITH YOU

- ✓ Valid vehicle registration.
- ✓ Current proof of insurance.

⚠ **Watch out:** Test the headlights, brake lights, turn signals, mirrors, horn, seat belts, and wipers first. A single failed item cancels the test.

7 Pass the driving skills test TEEN

Schedule the road test at a Florida driver license office. Practice mirrors, signals, and the moves listed below. Arrive 15 minutes early.

ⓘ **Remember:** the driving skills test is given in **English only** (effective Feb 6, 2026). No interpreters or translators.

BRING WITH YOU

- ✓ Identity, SSN, and Florida-address documents (if not already on file).
- ✓ Signed Certification of Minor Driving Experience form.

Next → Arrive 15 minutes early. Practice parallel parking, lane changes, and three-point turns beforehand.

Congratulations! Your teen now holds a full Florida driver license. One more thing to know before those late-night drives ↓

After you pass: nighttime driving limits still apply

Florida law (F.S. 322.16) keeps nighttime limits until age 18.

Age 16	No driving **11:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.**
Age 17	No driving **1:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m.**

Exception: driving directly to or from work **Exception: a licensed driver 21+ in the front seat**

Who does what — parent vs. teen

YOUR TEEN	PARENT OR GUARDIAN
1 6 HOURS **Complete the 6-hour DETS course** Required for every first-time applicant under 18, and it comes before the knowledge exam.	
2 50 QUESTIONS **Pass the Class E knowledge exam**	

Online with a parent proctoring, or in person at a driver license office. English only.

3 AFTER THE EXAM

Sign Form 71144 after an online exam

The Parent/Guardian Online Test Proctoring Form is a sworn statement that you were there. Sign it after the exam, before a notary or a driver license examiner. Without it the online result does not count.

4 PERMIT DAY

Gather the documents and go in

Proof of identity, Social Security number, and two different proofs of Florida address — then sign the Parental Consent Form at the counter.

5 12 MONTHS

Drive the 50 supervised hours

At least 10 after dark, over a twelve-month hold, always with a licensed driver 21 or older in the front passenger seat.

6 BEFORE THE TEST

Sign the certification and bring the car

An adult 21 or older signs the Certification of Minor Driving Experience, and the test vehicle needs valid registration and insurance.

7 ROAD TEST

Pass the driving skills test

At a Florida driver license office, in English, for the Class E license.

Who does what on the way to a Florida teen license. The teen takes the DETS course, the knowledge exam, the practice hours and the road test. The parent or guardian proctors the online exam, brings the documents, signs the consent and certification forms, and provides the vehicle.

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Common mistakes to avoid

- ⚠ Bringing only **one** proof of Florida address — you need **two different** documents.
- ⚠ Forgetting **Form 71144** when the teen wants to test online.
- ⚠ Letting a **step-parent** sign the consent form without a legal adoption.
- ⚠ Arriving without a **notarized** consent form when the parent can't attend.
- ⚠ Not logging **night hours** separately (you need 10).
- ⚠ Showing up for the road test with **expired registration or no insurance**.

⚠ Testing **before** the full 12-month permit hold is complete.

⚠ Driving past your **permit hours** or a teen's **post-license curfew**.

Florida teen driver license FAQ

How old do you have to be to get a learner's permit in Florida?

You can get a Florida learner's license at 15. Teens may begin the DETS course a little earlier, but the permit can't be issued until age 15.

Do you need driver's ed to get a Florida permit?

Yes. Since Aug 1, 2025, all first-time applicants under 18 must complete the 6-hour Driver Education and Traffic Safety (DETS) course. It comes before the Class E knowledge exam. It replaced the old 4-hour TLSAE for under-18 applicants; adults 18+ still take **TLSAE**.

Can a Florida teen take the Class E knowledge exam online?

Yes. An under-18 teen can take it online with a parent/guardian proctoring, or in person at a driver license office. After an online exam, the parent/guardian completes FLHSMV Form 71144, signed before a notary or a driver license examiner.

How many proofs of address does Florida require?

Two different documents proving your Florida residential address. For example: a utility bill dated within ~60 days, a lease/mortgage statement, or a bank/credit-card statement. A driver license or ID does not count.

What language are Florida driver license exams given in?

As of Feb 6, 2026, FLHSMV gives all knowledge and driving-skills exams in English only. Interpreters, translators, and printed non-English exams are no longer allowed (ASL only to communicate in English).

How long must my teen hold the learner's permit?

A full 12 months, or until they turn 18 — whichever comes first.

What are the nighttime driving rules for 16- and 17-year-olds?

A licensed 16-year-old may not drive 11 p.m.–6 a.m.; a licensed 17-year-old may not drive 1 a.m.–5 a.m. Both may drive during those hours to or from work, or with a licensed driver 21+ in the front seat.

Does Florida limit how many passengers a teen can carry?

No. Florida's Graduated Driver License program has no passenger-number limit. The teen restrictions are on nighttime driving hours, not passenger counts.

Official Florida resources (flhsmv.gov)

- **Accepted document list** — Every ID accepted for the permit & license.
- **Florida Driver Handbook** — Free study guide for the knowledge exam.
- **Practice driving log & forms** — Official form to track & certify your 50 hours.
- **Find a driver license office** — Locations, hours & real-time wait times.

This guide is for information only. Rules can change — always confirm the latest requirements at **flhsmv.gov** before visiting a driver license office. Highway Traffic School is a Florida state-approved provider of the DETS course and the Class E knowledge exam.