



## Texas Driving Exam

### Driving Test Overview

The driving test is about 20 minutes long. The goal of the driving test is to determine your student's driving ability to safely operate a vehicle and obey traffic laws. Your student will be graded on their ability to safely and legally demonstrate the following maneuvers:

- Backing in a straight line
- Parallel parking
- Approaching intersections
- Turning
- Stopping in regular traffic conditions
- Controlling the vehicle
- Observing traffic
- Maintaining vehicle position (turning, stopping, etc.)
- Using signals

These are the skills you should practice with your student until they are mastered. If your student performs a dangerous or illegal maneuver, the DPS clerk will immediately stop the driving test, and it would result in automatic failure.

Make sure your student can successfully do the following before scheduling an appointment for a driving test:

- **Pre-Drive Tasks:** student must adjust the mirrors, fasten seat belt, and know where the vehicle controls are located and how to use them (headlights, windshield wipers, turn signals, etc.)
- **Parallel Parking:** student must signal before beginning the maneuver. They must use their mirrors and turn their body to place the vehicle within the parking space.
- **Quick Stop:** student may be asked to stop the car as quickly as possible driving not more than 20 miles per hour without skidding the tires.
- **Backing or Reversing:** student must back the car slowly, smoothly, and in a straight line for a distance of about 60 feet.
- **Stop Signs:** student must completely stop at stop signs behind the white intersection line, and observe right-of-way at intersections.
- **Traffic Signals:** student must correctly observe all traffic signals.
- **Intersections:** student must be in the proper lane, slow down, and look carefully in all directions for on-coming traffic before entering an intersection.

- **Turns:** student must correctly turn (left or right) into the correct lane using the turn signal and controlled steering and acceleration.
- **Right-of-Way:** student must observe right-of-way laws, and yield the right-of-way, if necessary.
- **Safe Operating Space:** student must maintain a safe following distance (4 second minimum), a safe passing distance, and a safe distance when changing lanes.
- **Correct posture:** student must keep both hands on the steering wheel at all times, unless they are reversing.

### **Schedule Driving Test**

As the parent/instructor, you must drive with your student to the driving exam. You can schedule a driving test online at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ScheduleTest.aspx](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ScheduleTest.aspx). The online appointment is scheduled using your student's Texas Learner License number.

### **Before the Driving Test**

Your student must present their Texas Learner License to the Texas DPS employee. They must ask all questions before the driving test begins. Once the test begins, the Texas DPS official is not allowed to engage in general conversation. During the exam you must be quiet, and answer only when spoken to by the DPS official.

### **Vehicle Inspection**

Before you begin the driving test, your vehicle must pass an inspection to ensure it is safe and can be legally operated on Texas roadways. The customer service representative will check for:

- 1) two (2) license plates permanently attached to the front and back of the vehicle (no auto dealership plates)
- 2) working speedometer
- 3) working horn
- 4) working turn signals on the front and back of the vehicle
- 5) current vehicle registration and inspection
- 6) current insurance (applicant cannot be listed as "excluded driver")
- 7) at least one rearview mirror inside or outside of the vehicle
- 8) front passenger door that opens normally from the inside and outside
- 9) working seatbelts
- 10) restrictions on the driver (eye glasses, etc.)
- 11) working brake lights, headlights, and taillights
- 12) working windshield wipers

## **Test Results**

After the Driving Test, the DPS evaluator will inform you if you passed or failed the test. You will receive detailed feedback on all the areas you were evaluated on. If you do not pass the driving test, your application will be held in at the Texas DPS Driver License Office for 90 days. After 90 days, or if you fail three driving tests, you will have to submit a new application and pay another application fee.

## Texas Driving Test Checklist

Use this tool to assess your student's readiness to take their Texas Driving Test.	no	yes
<p><b><u>Starting The Vehicle</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student adjusted the mirrors.</li> <li>2. Student adjusted their seat.</li> <li>3. Student fastened their seat belt</li> <li>4. Student knew location of vehicle controls and how to use them when asked, including headlights, windshield wipers, and turn signals.</li> </ol>		
<p><b><u>Reversing the Vehicle</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student parallel parked the vehicle in the correct space using the turn signal and looking in mirrors and turning their head and body to look backward.</li> <li>2. Student reversed or backed the vehicle in a straight line looking in mirrors and turning head and body to look backward.</li> </ol>		
<p><b><u>Turning or Changing Lanes</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When turning or changing lanes, student signaled 100 feet before the maneuver.</li> <li>2. When turning or changing lanes, student adjusted their speed for safety.</li> <li>3. When turning and changing lanes, student looked over their shoulder for the blind spot.</li> <li>4. When turning or changing lanes, student began and ended the maneuver in the correct lane.</li> <li>5. When turning or changing lanes, student yielded and accepted right-of-way.</li> </ol>		
<p><b><u>While Driving</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student used turn signals when appropriate.</li> <li>2. Student looked in the mirrors regularly, looking straight, right and left, over your shoulder, when necessary. Always be checking for traffic.</li> <li>3. Student kept both hands on the steering wheel unless you are backing up.</li> <li>4. Student stopped completely behind the crosswalk or limit line at intersections.</li> <li>5. Student stopped smoothly without the vehicle shaking or jerking.</li> <li>6. Student checked mirrors at regular intervals.</li> <li>7. Student looked both ways at all intersections.</li> <li>8. Student looked for and obey all traffic lights and signs.</li> <li>9. Student saw and reacted appropriately to hazards.</li> <li>10. Student followed at a safe distance using minimum 3-second rule.</li> <li>11. Student obeyed posted speed limits.</li> <li>12. Student accelerated and stopped smoothly.</li> <li>13. Student obeyed all traffic signs and signals.</li> </ol>		