



# Iowa Department of Transportation

Office of Driver Services  
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December 31, 2013

Dear District Superintendents, Principals and Driver Education Teachers:

Re: Changes to driver licensing procedures for teen drivers.

During the 2013 session of the Iowa General Assembly, Senate File 115 was passed that made amendments to Section 321.180B, Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). This letter outlines the changes that are effective January 1, 2014.

### **Transition from Instruction Permit to the Intermediate License:**

- The Instruction Permit must be held for twelve months before upgrading to the Intermediate License. Previously it had been six months. This applies to all Instruction Permit holders even those who were issued the permit before January 1, 2014.
- The six-month period immediately preceding upgrade to the Intermediate License must be free from traffic-related convictions and contributive crashes.

### **Intermediate License passenger restriction:**

- The Intermediate License has a new passenger restriction that may apply for the first six months. Siblings, step siblings and minors who reside in the same household are permitted. However, only one unrelated minor passenger (under age 18) will be allowed.

This restriction was created because studies have shown that teen passengers turn the vehicle's environment into a social event and driving behavior can be negatively impacted. Novice drivers should concentrate fully on the road during this early period of no adult supervision.

However, the Legislature has allowed for parental control in this area. A parent or guardian may elect to waive this first six-month passenger restriction and authorize passengers. This waiver must be exercised at the time the Intermediate License is issued. It will be done on the standard "Parent's/Guardian's Consent" to drive. Parents/guardians will be required to select "yes" or "no" to have the passenger restriction for the first six months.

If the passenger restriction applies for the first six months, it will be indicated on the Intermediate License. e.g., "Only one unrelated minor passenger allowed until xx/xx/xxxx."

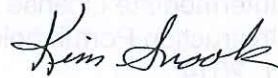
**Minor School License passenger restriction:**

- Section 321.194 was also amended to apply a passenger restriction for School License holders. Although siblings, step-siblings and minors living in the same household may be passengers, only one unrelated minor passenger (under 18) is allowed. Parents/guardians may not waive this restriction. The restriction remains in force during the entire duration of the school license.

We have added information to our website concerning these changes. They can be viewed at: [www.iowadot.gov](http://www.iowadot.gov). In addition, we are mailing informational letters to those teens and parents affected by these changes.

Thank you for your continued interest in teen driver safety.

Sincerely,



Kim Snook, Director  
Office of Driver Services