



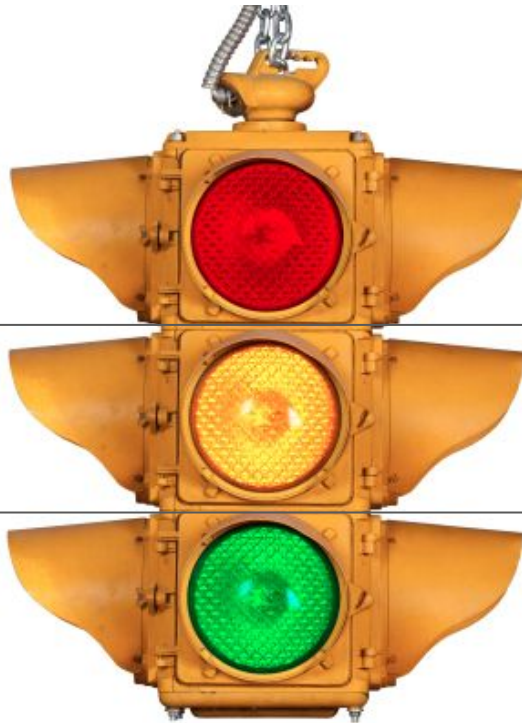
# ReEstablish RICHMOND

Connecting refugees and new immigrants to the resources needed to establish roots, build community, and become self-sufficient.

**Since 2013, ReEstablish Richmond has helped newcomers to study for the learner's permit test in their primary language, successfully move through the driver's license process, and become safe drivers.**



**Right now, how confident do you feel that you understand the process to get a driver's license in Virginia?**



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**Not at all**

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**A little bit**

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**Very confident**



## Transportation Independence



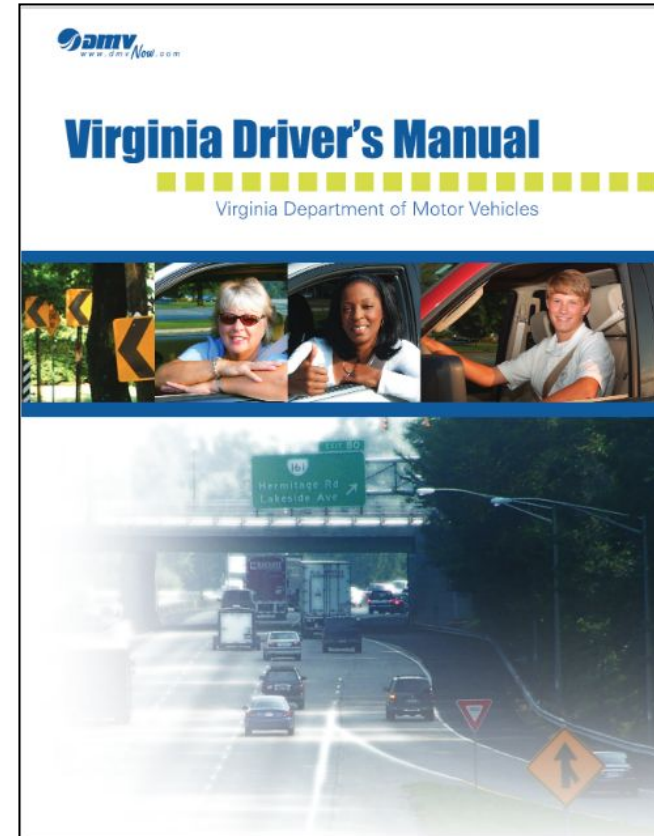
How to Get a Driver's License in Virginia  
and What to Expect at the DMV



# How to Get a Driver's License in Virginia

## Step 1: Prepare for the learner's permit knowledge test

- Study the Virginia driver's manual
- Practice the online questions:  
[www.dmvnow.com](http://www.dmvnow.com)
  - Drivers/ID Cards
  - Learner's Permit
  - Practice Exams
  - Study and Practice Now
  - Driver's Study Guide
  - Sections 2, 3, 4, 5
- Continue to study and review this important road safety information until you get your driver's license.



## Step 2: Gather the documents required by the DMV

DRIVER'S LICENSE / REAL ID	DRIVER PRIVILEGE CARD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of identity / photo ID</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of legal presence</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Social security card</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 proofs of Virginia residency</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Proofs of identity / photo ID</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of tax documentation</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Social security card, or Proof of tax documentation</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 proofs of Virginia residency</li></ul>

***Documents must be original, no photocopies. The spelling of your name should be exactly the same on all documents. If in doubt, bring all of your documents with you to the DMV.***



## DMV Checklist: Optional documents

- ❑ Unexpired Driver's License from your country, if you have one.
  - Original, no photocopies allowed
  - If your license is printed in a language other than French, German, or Spanish, you will need to provide a translation of the license also.

***Showing your license to the DMV when you apply to take the Learner's Permit test enables you to schedule the road test immediately upon passing, rather than waiting 60 days.***



## Step 3: Prepare for the vision test

A vision test ensures that all drivers can see clearly enough to drive safely. If you need glasses to see clearly for driving, bring them to the DMV. If you think you might need glasses, get your vision tested before going to the DMV.

**Your vision must be at least 20/40 in order to take the learner's permit test.**

The DMV clerk will ask you to look into the machine and read the letters in one of the rows. You will need to say (or write) the names of all the letters in that row, **in order from left to right**.



Then the DMV clerk will ask you to identify where you see **flashing lights**: on the Right side, or the Left side, or Both.



1	A H J P	U R E Z	H W X K
2	L R S D	A B L Q	E C F Z
3	E K C M	U H G T	T D L N
4	W P D S	L K U Y	X B S C
5	H A F B	M V Q K	F P R Z





# Step 4: Plan your trip to the DMV

## MONDAY - FRIDAY

*appointments available*

- Go to [dmvnow.com](https://dmvnow.com)
- Search available appointments by
  - *Type of testing*
  - *Location*
- DMV website shows all appointments that are available in the next 90 days.
- After making an appointment, you will:
  - *See a confirmation message on the screen*
  - *Receive a confirmation email*

## MONDAY - FRIDAY + SATURDAY

*walk-in services*

- Expect a long wait
- Must maintain 6 feet distance
- Doors open at 8am

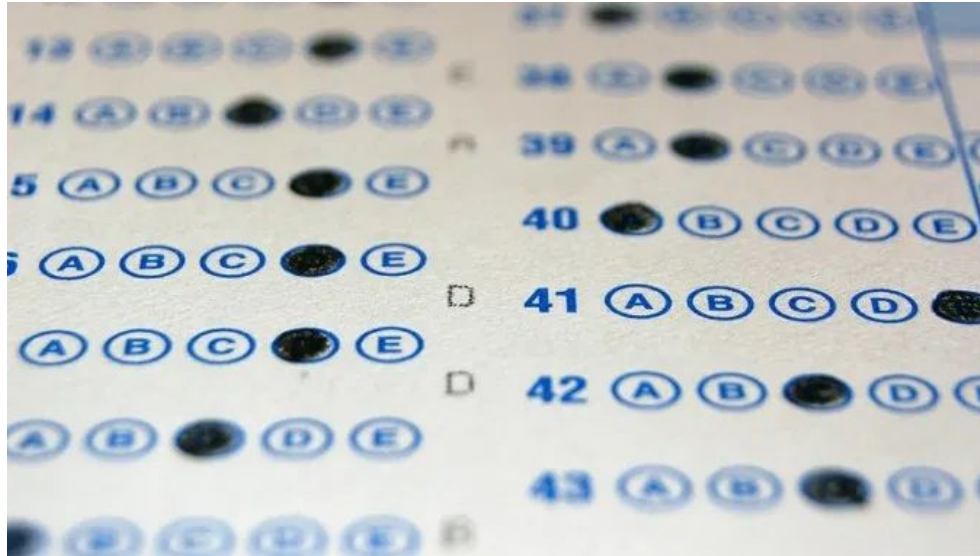


## Step 5: Understand the options for taking the learner's permit general knowledge test

- The test is available in **25 languages**.
- The test is available in 2 formats:
  - **On a touch-screen computer**
    - *Audio option, with recorded voice reading questions + answer choices*
    - *Access to both language translation + English*
  - **On paper**
    - *Access to one language only, English or language translation*
    - *Answers must be recorded on a separate sheet*
- The test has 2 parts:
  - **Part 1** = traffic signs + signals (**10/10** answers must be correct)
  - **Part 2** = rules of driving (**24/30** answers must be correct)
    - *You must pass the first part to advance to the second part of the test.*
- You may take the test **up to 3 times** without penalty
  - Many people fail the first time, so be sure to study and review all of the information thoroughly before going to the DMV.



**Everyone who takes the test on paper** must record the answers on a scantron sheet, like this:



- ***If the test is not available in your language,*** you must bring an interpreter and take the test on paper. The two of you will sit back-to-back, and the interpreter will read the questions and answer choices to you. No other questions or discussion is allowed.
- ***If the test is available in your language,*** you may take the test on paper, but you may not bring an interpreter.



## Step 6: Take the learner's permit test at the DMV

- **Use the resources available on the computer screen.**
  - Audio option - screen reader
  - Language translation + English
- **Take a deep breath.**
  - Stay calm and focused.
- **Do not rush yourself to finish the test.**
  - There is no time limit for the test. *You may take as long as you need to read and review the questions and answer choices carefully before indicating your answers.*
- **Taking the learner's permit test is free,** but when you pass the test, you will pay **\$45**. This amount covers the cost of the learner's permit, road test at the DMV, and driver's license.



## Step 7: If you do not pass the test...

- You can ask the clerk to process your Virginia ID.
- The cost for a Virginia ID is about **\$10**.
- ***Keep studying the Virginia driver's manual + online practice questions.***



### What to know about taking the test again:

- Having a Virginia ID card as your proof of identity will make the application process faster/easier.
- Bring all your documents each time you take the test.
- Return to DMV after 15 days and test for free, or
- Return to DMV within 15 days and pay \$2 to test again.



## If you fail the learner's permit test 3 times:

- Attend a re-examination class at a local driving school.
  - **Cost: \$100+**
- Bring an interpreter to help you take notes.
- Pass a written test at the end of the class.
- Receive a re-examination certificate from the driving school.
- Take this certificate back to the DMV and test again, as many times as needed.



## *After getting your learner's permit*

### **Step 8: Learn to drive + practice safe driving skills**

With a learner's permit, you are allowed to drive with a **licensed driver** riding in the front passenger seat of the car.

Learn and practice driving:

- Take behind the wheel driving lessons from a DMV-certified driving school. If needed, bring an interpreter to sit in the back seat of the car so you and the instructor can clearly communicate with one another.

*and/or*

- Practice driving with a person who has their license



## *After learning + practicing safe driving skills*

### **Step 9: Take the road skills test**

- Interpreter must stand outside the car.
  - *Study English driving vocabulary now, to increase confidence*
- Schedule an appointment at the DMV.
  - *No extra cost*
  - *Must wait 60 days after getting learner's permit*
  - *Must bring a car to the DMV for the road test. This car must be in good working order and the DMV registration, car insurance, and state inspection must be up-to-date.*

*or*

- Take the road test at a DMV-certified local driving school.
  - *More expensive*
  - *Must first take permit review class + driving lessons*
  - *Faster than waiting for a DMV appointment*
  - *For experienced drivers who are ready, may take the road test after 15 days of getting learner's permit*





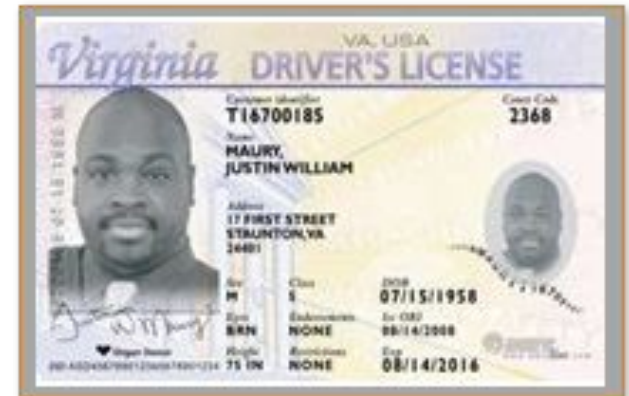
*After passing the road skills test*

## Step 10: Receive your driver's license

**Vertical:** Under age 21



**Horizontal:** Age 21 and older



**A separate test is required for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to drive a large truck or a bus carrying 15+ people.**



# Driver's License Types: REAL ID

**Beginning May 3, 2023**, if you want to fly to another state, you will need to present a driver's license or Virginia ID that is REAL ID compliant or [another form of approved identification](#). After that date, REAL ID compliant documents will be required for all adults to board a domestic flight or to access secure federal facilities. **You can indicate your preference to have a REAL ID driver's license on your learner's permit application.**



*A REAL ID compliant credential, left, will display a small star in the upper right corner, while a non-compliant or standard credential, right, will display "Federal Limits Apply."*



# Change of Address

Your Virginia ID, Learner's Permit, or Driver's License is your **official proof of identification**. If you move to another address, you are required to inform DMV within **30 days**.



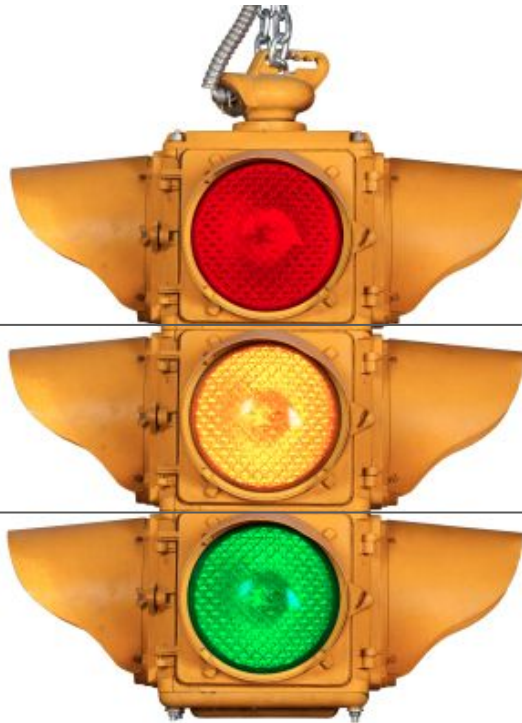
# Our Top Priorities



- Helping you to become a safe driver
- Helping your family to stay safe on the roads



**Now, how confident do you feel that you understand the process to get a driver's license in Virginia?**



---

**Not at all**

---

**A little bit**

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**Very confident**



# Transportation Independence



## 10 Basic Driving Rules in the U.S.



Basic Driving Rules: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Wear your seat belt.**



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 **2** 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

## **Drive on the right.**

On roads with 2-way traffic, cars stay on the right side of the road. The steering wheel is on the left, so the driver sits near the center of the road.





# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

## **Slow traffic must keep right.**

When driving on a multi-lane highway, stay in the right lane if you are driving slower than the traffic around you. The left lane is for passing only.



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 3 **4** 5 6 7 8 9 10

## **Stay in your lane.**

Keep your car in the center of your lane, between the lines that are painted on the road.



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7 8 9 10

## **Signal your intentions.**

Use your turn signal to let other drivers know when you plan to change lanes for any reason.



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7 8 9 10

## **Maintain a safe, legal speed.**

It is okay to drive slower than the speed limit, but you should not drive faster than the speed limit, even if you are a very experienced driver.



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 3 4 5 6 **7** 8 9 10

## **Stay focused.**

Never put yourself or others in danger because of a call, text, or other activity. Keep your eyes and mind on the road. Keep your hands on the steering wheel.



**Virginia has a hands free driving law. You may use a blue tooth device to talk only, but it is against the law to hold your phone and drive at the same time.**



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 **8** 9 10

## **Obey traffic control devices.**

All of the traffic signs and signals are designed to regulate the flow of traffic. Following their instructions helps everyone to stay safe on the roads.



**\*\* Obey all signs and signals *unless directed by a police officer.* Always follow the officer's direction.**



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 **9** 10

## **Don't overuse the horn.**

Only use the horn for situations when you need to warn another driver about an unsafe situation or alert a pedestrian that they are in danger.



# Basic Driving Rules: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 **10**

## **Keep calm.**

Driving brings freedom as well as responsibility. Take your time. Follow the rules. Be patient with yourself and with others.





Transportation Independence



Car Seat Safety Information



# Child Safety

It is **against the law** for children to ride in the back of a truck.



**The driver is legally responsible for children's safety.**



# Child Safety

It is **against the law** for children to ride in the back of a truck.



**The driver is legally responsible for children's safety.**



# Seat Belts



It is the **law** that the **driver** and all other **front seat** passengers must wear a seat belt. Make sure it is snug or tight to your body!

Anyone under 18 must wear a seat belt in the **back seat**, too.

**Wearing a seat belt can double your chances of surviving a crash!**



# Air Bags



In a car crash, air bags provide a cushion to keep the head, neck, and chest from hitting the dashboard or steering column, reducing the force of impact.

Because of the danger of suffocation, children under age 12 should be buckled up in the back seat.



# Car Seat Safety

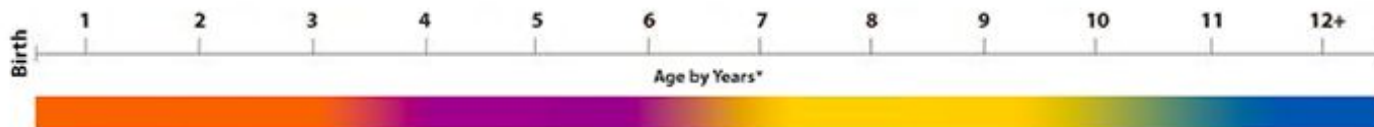


**By law, all children under 8 must use  
an age-appropriate car seat.**



# Car Seat Safety

Using the correct car seat or booster seat can be a lifesaver: make sure your child is always buckled in an age- and size-appropriate car seat or booster seat.



## REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

**Birth until age 2-4**  
Buckle children in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible.



## FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

**After outgrowing rear-facing seat until at least age 5**  
When children outgrow their rear-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat.



## BOOSTER SEAT

**After outgrowing forward-facing seat and until seat belts fit properly**  
Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat until seat belts fit properly. Proper seat belt fit usually occurs when children are 4 feet 9 inches tall and age 9-12.



## SEAT BELT

**Once seat belts fit properly without a booster seat**  
Children no longer need to use a booster seat once seat belts fit them properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).

**Keep children ages 12 and under properly buckled in the back seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag.**

*\*Recommended age ranges for each seat type vary to account for differences in child growth and height/weight limits of car seats and booster seats. Use the car seat or booster seat owner's manual to check installation and the seat height and weight limits, and proper seat use.*

Child safety seat recommendations: American Academy of Pediatrics.  
Graphic design: adapted from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.  
[www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/cps](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/cps)



# Car Seat Safety



As your child grows, the shoulder straps need to be moved up to the correct harness slots and adjusted for a proper fit.

**Rear-facing car seats:** shoulder straps should come through the car seat slots at or just **below** your child's shoulders.

**Forward-facing seats:** shoulder straps should be at or just **above** the shoulders.





# Car Seat Safety



The straps should fit close to the child's body. In cold weather, remove the coat if needed, and use it as a blanket to keep the child warm while riding safely.



# Car Seat Safety



**Until age 5**, children must use a solid, high-backed car seat with harness straps that fit over the child's shoulders and around the hips. The straps are fastened in the center of the chest and between the child's legs.

This is called a 5-point harness.



# Car Seat Safety



**After age 5**, children should use a booster seat to make sure that the car's seat belt is centered across the child's shoulder and chest.



# Car Seat Safety



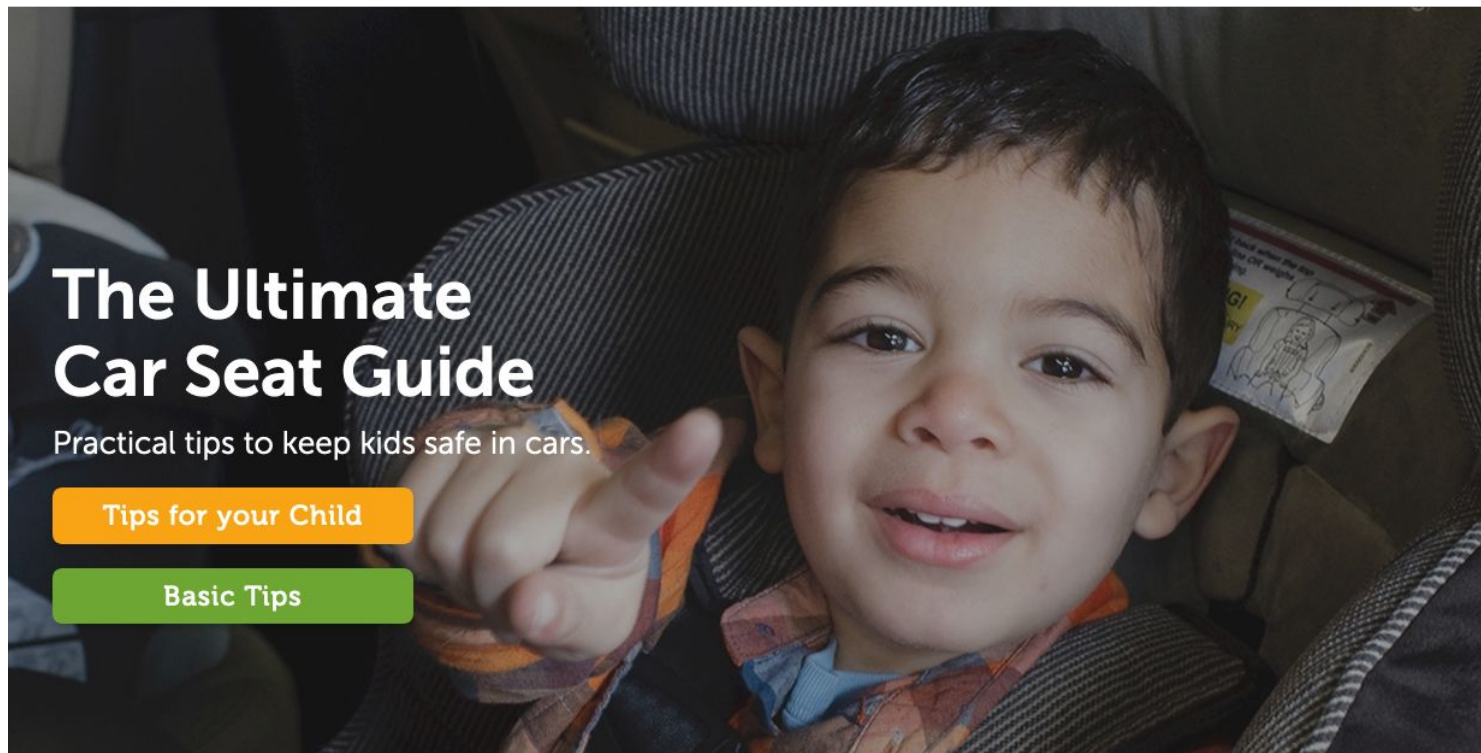
**Between ages 8-10**, when the car's seat belt fits properly and the child can sit all the way back with knees bent at the end of the seat, the child is ready to ride without a booster.



# Car Seat Safety

As your children grow and their car seat needs change,  
refer to the guide provided:

[www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide](http://www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide)



# Transportation Independence



Resources for Learner's Permit Study +  
DMV Navigation + Driving Skills



# Resources to help you prepare for the learner's permit knowledge test:

- **Printed study materials**

- Virginia DMV driver's manual (in English or Spanish)
- How to Get a Driver's License in Virginia - step by step
- Car seat safety information
- English driving vocabulary

- **Digital resources on ReEstablish Richmond website**

- [Arabic](#)
- [Dari + Pashto](#)
- [Swahili + French](#)



# How ReEstablish Richmond can help:

- **Learner' Permit Study Course cohort**
  - Join the waiting list for the next virtual class in your primary language
  - Usually 3-9 months wait
- **DMV Orientation**
  - When you're ready to take the learner's permit test, a volunteer can take you to the DMV one time, to support you through the application process of taking the learner's permit test
  - The next time you need to go to the DMV, you will know what to expect and will do it on your own





# How ReEstablish Richmond can help:

## Connection to a DMV-certified local driving school

- **If you fail the learner's permit test 3 times:** Re-exam class
  - Attend one class + pass a test at the end
  - Offered 2 Sundays/month; 8am to 4pm
  - ***Bring an interpreter to ensure understanding + access test***
  - Cost: \$100 - client pays full amount
- **When you pass the learner's permit test:** Driving lessons
  - ***Bring an interpreter to sit in the back seat of the car***
    - 5 driving lessons → road skills test at DMV
    - 7 lessons (including permit review class) + road skills test
  - ***ReR clients are eligible for a partial scholarship: \$115***
    - ReR will refer the client to a partner driving school
    - ReR will pay the driving school, **not** the client



# Transportation Independence



Contact

804-937-3596

*Voice / text messages will be returned within 1 week.*



# Our Best Wishes to You on Your Journey

