



















Signs you must recognize

Shape and color tell you what to do before you read the text.

Sign color decoder

 Red Stop, yield, or do not enter	 Yellow Warning of hazard ahead	 Orange Work zone, construction, or detour	 Green Permitted movement or directions
 Blue Driver services, hospitals, rest areas	 Brown Recreation, parks, scenic areas	 White Regulatory — must obey the posted rule	 Yellow-green Pedestrian, school, or bike crossing

Illinois signs you will see on the test

 Warning (diamond) Yellow diamond = hazard or special condition ahead.	 Railroad crossing (crossbuck) White X-shape: look, listen, slow — prepare to stop.	 Slippery when wet Yellow diamond with skidding car: road may be slippery.	 Slow-moving vehicle Orange-red triangle on rear = vehicle moves ≤ 25 mph.
 Workers ahead Orange diamond with worker: workers on or near the road.	 Exit only Green overhead sign with yellow EXIT ONLY: must exit.	 Red arrow — no turn Red arrow right: do not turn right until green signal.	 Green left-turn arrow Protected left turn: oncoming traffic is stopped.
 Green arrow (left) Protected left-turn signal: yield to any pedestrians.	 Hand signal — stop/slow Left arm angled DOWN = driver is slowing or stopping.	 Hazard lights on vehicle Flashing amber taillights ahead: hazard or crash possible.	 Broken white center line Dashed white: same-direction lanes, may change with care.

Sign shape shortcuts

Octagon — Always means STOP. The only 8-sided sign.

Downward triangle — Always means YIELD. Red and white edges.

Diamond — Warning of a road condition or hazard ahead.

Vertical rectangle — Regulatory — speed limits, turn restrictions, lane use.

Horizontal rectangle — Guidance — route markers, exit info, distance signs.

Pennant — Sideways triangle on LEFT side = START of no-passing zone.

Round — Yellow circle with X+R-R = railroad crossing ahead.

Pentagon — School zone or school crossing — children present.

Rules of the road

Right of way

4-way stop — First to arrive goes first. Ties yield to driver on the right.

Left turn — Yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning.

Traffic circle / roundabout — Yield to vehicles already circulating in the circle.

Pedestrian — any crosswalk — Yield whether crosswalk is marked or unmarked.

Blind pedestrian with cane — Stop and wait; do not honk or proceed until they clear.

Merging onto freeway — Merge into a gap; freeway traffic has right-of-way.

Emergency vehicle (siren/lights) — Pull to right edge of road and stop until it passes.

Stopped school bus (flashing red) — Stop both directions until arm retracts and lights stop.

Railroad crossing — Stop 15–50 feet from tracks. Never stop on the tracks.

Inoperative traffic signal — Treat as 4-way stop: full stop, then yield before proceeding.

Police officer vs signal — Always obey officer's directions over traffic signals.

Illinois speed limits

Urban/residential street	30 mph (unless posted)
School zone (children present)	20 mph (when posted)
Rural two-lane highway	55 mph (unless posted)
Interstate / expressway	65–70 mph (posted)

Alley	15 mph
Hydroplaning risk starts at	35 mph on wet roads
High-beam dim — oncoming	Within 500 feet
Signal before turning	At least 100 feet ahead

Lane markings and passing

Solid yellow — your side — No passing allowed from your lane.

Broken yellow — Passing on left permitted when way is clear.

Solid yellow + broken yellow — Side with broken line may pass; solid side may not.

Double solid yellow — Treat as solid wall — do not cross in either direction.

Broken white line — Same-direction lanes; change lanes with due care.

After passing — return when — Both headlights of passed vehicle visible in mirror.

Red reflectors facing you — You are going the wrong way. Get off the road.

Turning, signaling, and hand signals

Signal distance — Signal at least 100 feet before turning or changing lanes.

Hand signal — left turn — Arm straight out the driver window.

Hand signal — right turn — Arm bent up at the elbow.

Hand signal — stop / slow — Arm bent down at the elbow.

Right on red — Allowed after full stop, unless sign prohibits.

Starting from curb — Yield to all moving traffic before pulling into lane.

Exiting parallel space — Turn head and check traffic before pulling out.

Safety, DUI, parking and test-day

Illinois DUI quick-facts

Adult driver BAC limit (21+)	0.08 %	First thing alcohol impairs	Judgment
Under-21 zero tolerance	Any amount detected	Drugs other than alcohol	All types can impair driving
Implied-consent refusal	License may be taken away	Only way to sober up	Time — coffee/food do not help
BAC 0.02 % effect	Doubles crash risk	Repeat alcohol transport (21+)	Suspended: 2 convictions in 12 months

Hazardous conditions

DO

- + Use low beams in fog, rain, or snow
- + Increase following distance in wet or slippery conditions
- + Steer in the direction of the skid; stay off the brakes
- + Press and HOLD ABS brakes; pump non-ABS brakes
- + Pull fully off the road if visibility drops dangerously
- + Turn on headlights at dawn, dusk, or when wipers are needed
- + Slow down to avoid hydroplaning (risk starts at 35 mph)

DON'T

- Use high beams in fog — light reflects back at you
- Brake hard in a skid — locks wheels, kills steering
- Drive through flooded roads if depth is unknown
- Eat, drink, or use a handheld device while driving
- Drive drowsy — pull off and rest instead
- Pass a school bus showing flashing red lights
- Stop on railroad tracks — wait until you can fully clear

Parking and hill rules

Red curb	No stopping, standing, or parking	Uphill, no curb	Wheels TOWARD road edge
Uphill with curb	Wheels AWAY from curb	Downhill, no curb	Wheels TOWARD road edge
Downhill with curb	Wheels TOWARD curb	Always set	Parking brake on any hill

Equipment and vehicle rules

Seat belts — Required for driver and all passengers at all times.

Turn signals failure — Use hand signals if turn signals fail.

Emergency flashers — use when — Disabled, slow-moving, or creating a hazard.

Worn / bald tires — Increase stopping distance; replace before use.

Underinflated tires — Reduces fuel economy and handling performance.

Brake failure — Downshift, pump pedal, use parking brake gradually.

Passing a bicyclist — Allow safe clearance; do not crowd the cyclist.

Motorcycle following distance — Allow extra space — motorcycles stop much faster.

Illinois test-day cheat box

Exam length (all ages)	35 questions	Supervised hours required	50 total, 10 at night
Passing score	28 of 35 (80 %)	Night curfew (Sun–Thu)	10 PM – 6 AM (initial license)
Permit fee	\$20 (includes 3 attempts)	Night curfew (Fri–Sat)	11 PM – 6 AM (initial license)
Permit hold before road test	9 months (under 18)	Passenger restriction	First 12 months: max 1 unrelated passenger under 20

Last-minute test-taking tips

Read every option before you pick — the Illinois SOS exam often includes a partially-correct option to trip you up. When two options seem right, pick the more cautious one ('slow and yield' usually beats 'proceed' or 'honk'). If you blank, eliminate obvious wrong answers first, then guess — unanswered counts as wrong. School bus and railroad crossing rules are heavily tested; know exactly when you stop and when you may proceed.