


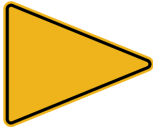










Signs you must recognize

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

Color decoder

Red	Stop / yield / do not enter	White	Regulatory - must obey
Yellow	General warning ahead	Green	Directions / permitted
Yellow-green	Pedestrians / school / bikes	Blue	Driver services / hospitals
Orange	Work zone or detour	Brown	Recreation / parks / historic

Most-tested Pennsylvania signs

 <p>Stop Octagon = full stop. Check pedestrians + cross traffic.</p>	 <p>No-passing zone Yellow pennant on left = do not pass until it ends.</p>	 <p>Railroad crossing Slow, look, yield - trains cannot stop for you.</p>	 <p>Signal ahead Traffic signal at next intersection. Cover the brake.</p>	 <p>Right lane ends Right lane drops - merge left when safe.</p>	 <p>Reduced speed ahead New lower limit begins at this sign — slow now.</p>
 <p>Advisory exit speed Max SAFE speed for the ramp - not a limit.</p>	 <p>Exit only Yellow EXIT ONLY panel - lane leaves freeway.</p>	 <p>Slow-moving vehicle Orange/red triangle = vehicle going 25 mph or less.</p>	 <p>Red arrow Stop. No turn until the green signal or green arrow appears.</p>	 <p>Green arrow left Protected turn - oncoming traffic is stopped.</p>	 <p>Flashing yellow arrow Turn allowed — yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.</p>
 <p>Green ball Go if clear. Yield to people still in intersection.</p>	 <p>Hand signal - stop Left arm bent DOWN out window = stopping or slowing.</p>	 <p>Two-lane road Two-lane rural road — stay right, pass only when a broken yellow line allows.</p>	 <p>Side-mirror blind spot Side-mirror warning — objects may be closer than they appear; check blind spots before changing lanes.</p>	 <p>Officer at light Officer directions override the signal - always obey.</p>	 <p>School bus stopped Red flashers + stop arm = stop 10 ft back, both ways.</p>

Sign-shape shortcuts

- Octagon** — Always STOP. Only 8-sided sign on the road.
- Triangle pointing down** — Always YIELD - slow and give right-of-way.
- Pennant (left side)** — No-passing zone, posted on the LEFT shoulder.
- Diamond** — Warning of road condition or hazard ahead.
- Pentagon** — School zone or school crossing.
- Round** — Railroad crossing ahead - prepare to stop.

Rules of the road

Right-of-way

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

Uncontrolled intersection — Yield to vehicle approaching from your right.

T-intersection — Driver on the through road has the right-of-way.

Left turn — Yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

Pedestrian in crosswalk — Always yield - marked or unmarked.

Blind pedestrian — Slow, yield, be ready to stop. Do not honk.

Emergency vehicle — Pull right and stop. Never block an intersection.

Stopped school bus — Stop both directions unless divided by a median.

Roundabout — Yield to traffic ALREADY in the circle.

Merging onto freeway — Existing freeway traffic has right-of-way; you adjust.

Funeral procession — Yield even at green; do not cut through the line.

Broken signal — Treat the intersection as a 4-way stop.

Pennsylvania speed limits

Max statewide (rural interstate)	70 mph
School zone (lights flashing)	15 mph
Residential / business district	25 mph (default)
Other state roads (default)	55 mph unless posted
Highway visibility < 1,000 ft	Headlights required

Stop from RR tracks (signaled)	15 ft from nearest rail
Stop from school bus	10 ft minimum
Posted 'Reduced speed ahead'	New limit begins at this sign
Advisory exit ramp speed	Maximum safe - not a limit
Work zone	Obey posted - double following distance

Lane markings & changes

Solid yellow on your side — No passing in your lane.

Broken yellow — Passing allowed when oncoming lane is clear.

Double solid yellow — No passing in either direction.

Broken white — Same direction - lane change OK when safe.

Solid white — Lane change discouraged - usually shoulder edge.

Before changing lanes — Signal, check mirrors, glance over shoulder for blind spot.

Highway markings purpose — Position vehicle, mark passing zones, warn of conditions.

Passing on two-way road — Only when broken yellow + clear sight + legal.

Turning & signaling

Signal timing — Activate turn signal 3-4 seconds before the turn.

Hand signal - left turn — Left arm straight OUT the window.

Hand signal - right turn — Left arm bent UP at the elbow.

Hand signal - stop / slow — Left arm bent DOWN at the elbow.

Right-on-red — Stop fully, yield to peds + traffic, then turn unless 'No Turn'.

Green left arrow — Protected turn - oncoming traffic is stopped.

Red arrow — Means STOP. No turn against a red arrow.

Green ball turning — May turn left or right unless prohibited; yield first.

Turn signals broken — Use hand signals out the driver's window.

U-turn — Never where 'No U-Turn' posted - and never on a curve.

Following distance & emergencies

Following on dry highway — Keep at least 4 seconds behind the vehicle ahead.

Behind a motorcycle — Allow at least 4 seconds - bikes stop faster than cars.

Work zone — DOUBLE your normal following distance.

Tailgater behind you — Move right or slow gradually; let them pass.

Tire blowout — Grip wheel, stay off brakes, ease off gas, coast to stop.

Wheels drop off pavement — Gentle brake, slow down, then steer back on at a safe speed.

Skid (rear slides left) — Steer LEFT - look + steer the way you want to go.

Emergency vehicle — Pull to right curb and stop; wait for it to pass.

Steer Clear law — Slow + change lanes for stopped emergency / tow / utility.

Brake unexpected stop — Tap brake pedal 3-4 times to warn drivers behind.

Sharing the road & railroad

Motorcycle in traffic — Give a full lane; harder to see - check blind spots twice.

Bicyclist — Treat as a vehicle; pass with at least 4 ft of clearance.

Pedestrian — Yield in any crosswalk - marked or unmarked.

Wide right turn by truck — Do NOT squeeze between truck and curb.

School bus - red flashers — Stop 10 ft back, both directions, unless divided highway.

RR - signals or gates — Stop 15 ft from nearest rail; never go around gates.

Safety, DUI, parking & test-day

■ Pennsylvania DUI quick-facts

Adult driver BAC limit	0.08 %	'Highest Rate' BAC tier	0.16 % and above
Under 21 BAC (zero tolerance)	0.02 %	Implied-consent refusal	1-year license suspension
Commercial driver BAC	0.04 %	1st DUI fine range	\$300 - \$5,000
'High Rate' BAC tier	0.10 - 0.159 %	Required for 1st or 2nd offense	Alcohol Highway Safety School

■ Hazardous conditions (PA winters + mountains)

DO

- + Use LOW beams in fog, rain, snow, or whenever visibility drops
- + Slow at first sign of rain - oil + water = slickest moment
- + Shift to a LOWER gear before a long downhill grade
- + Brake BEFORE entering a curve, accelerate gently through it
- + Double following distance on wet, icy or work-zone roads
- + Pump tap brakes 3-4 times to warn drivers behind you
- + Get fully off the pavement if you must stop on a highway

DON'T

- Use HIGH beams in fog - light reflects right back at you
- Use cruise control in snow, rain, ice or fog
- Brake hard on ice or in a skid - steer the way you want to go
- Pass a stopped school bus showing red flashers
- Stop just over a hill or just past a curve - no visibility
- Try to 'get back' at a driver who left their high beams on
- Drive around lowered RR gates - ever, for any reason

■ Parking & hill rules

Parked on the roadway	Use 4-way flashers; visible 500 ft	Stop from nearest RR rail	15 ft
Uphill with curb	Front wheels AWAY from curb	Stop from school bus	10 ft minimum
Downhill with curb	Front wheels TOWARD curb	Disabled space (non-disabled)	May NOT park, stop or stand
Hill with NO curb	Front wheels TOWARD road edge	Leaving the vehicle	Stop engine + set parking brake
After parallel parking	Straighten wheels, leave room front + back	Roadside breakdown	Pull off pavement, flashers on

■ Equipment & vehicle rules

Seat belt - all occupants — Required; ticket if you or any passenger is unbuckled.

Before starting engine — Adjust seat first, then mirrors, then buckle up.

Headlights required — Whenever you cannot see 1,000 ft ahead.

Fog / rain / snow — Use low beam headlights - never high beams.

Minor + cell phone — No phone use while driving - let calls go to voicemail.

Vehicle defect — Correct as soon as possible - before driving again.

Tire pressure — Check often when cold; bad pressure causes blowouts.

Blind spots — Areas you cannot see without turning your head - always check.

■ Test-day cheat box (PennDOT learner's permit)

Exam length	18 questions	Of those - night hours	10 night + 5 bad-weather
Passing score	15 of 18 (83 %)	Junior license curfew	11 pm - 5 am
Permit fee (2026)	\$35.50	Junior - first 6 months	1 passenger under 18
Supervised driving hours (under 18)	65 total	Junior - after 6 months	Up to 3 passengers under 18 (non-family)

■ Last-minute test-taking tips

Read EVERY option before you pick - PennDOT loves partially-correct answers that look right. When two answers seem possible, pick the more cautious one ('slow and yield' beats 'speed up to merge'). Watch for PA-specific numbers: 70 mph max, 15 mph in active school zones, 15 ft from rail, 10 ft from a stopped school bus, 4-second following distance on dry highway, 0.02 BAC under 21, 0.08 adult, 0.04 commercial. If you blank, eliminate the obviously wrong choices first - unanswered counts as wrong. You only need 15 of 18 to pass.