

IL Road Signs Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

35 Scored questions	— Time limit	passing score not publis... Passing score
\$0 Exam fee	Illinois Secretary of Stat... Governing body	— Pass rate

Everything below is the highest-yield Illinois material compressed for a final pass. Read it the night before, again the morning of, and walk in with the shapes, colors, and numbers still warm.

Sign Shapes

- Octagon: stop. Red with white letters; no other sign borrows the shape.
- Downward triangle: yield. Slow, give way, stop if no gap opens.
- Yellow diamond, black symbol: warning of a condition ahead.
- Circle: railroad advance warning.
- Pentagon: school zone or school crossing.

Sign Colors

- Orange: construction or maintenance work zone.
- Blue: motorist services, including gas, food, and lodging.
- Brown: recreational and cultural destinations.

Pavement Markings

- Yellow lines: opposite-direction traffic on the other side.
- White lines: same-direction lanes.
- Solid yellow on your side: no passing for you.
- Broken lines: may be crossed when the way is clear.

Signals

- Flashing red: stop completely, then go when safe, exactly like a stop sign.
- Steady yellow: red is coming; stop if you safely can.
- Flashing yellow: slow down and proceed with caution.

Right-of-Way

- Four-way stop: first to arrive and stop goes first; simultaneous arrivals yield to the right.
- Left turn on plain green: yield to oncoming traffic.
- School bus with red lights and stop arm: both directions stop unless the highway has 4 or more lanes permitting opposite-direction travel.
- Illegally passing a stopped school bus: mandatory \$300 fine, \$1,000 the second time, plus community service.

Speed

- School zones: 20 mph on school days while children are present.
- Following distance: at least 3 seconds; add more when pavement is wet or icy.

- Posted limits are ceilings; conditions can make a lower speed the only lawful one.

Alcohol and Impairment

- Adult per se limit: 0.08.
- Commercial motor vehicles: 0.04.
- Under 21: zero tolerance; anything above 0.00 suspends the license.
- Implied consent: driving means consenting to chemical testing; refusal brings automatic suspension.
- Only time lowers alcohol concentration; coffee and showers only change how you feel.

Licensing Numbers

- Instruction permit: \$20 for a first-time applicant, valid 24 months.
- Supervisor: age 21 or older with at least 1 year of driving experience, seated beside you.
- Practice: 50 certified hours behind the wheel, at least 10 at night.
- Graduated license: age 16 minimum, permit held at least 9 months.
- First 12 months or until 18: no more than 1 passenger under 20 unless immediate family.
- Original 4-year license: \$30.

Test-Day Traps

- The 4-or-more-lanes exception to the school bus stop is the detail most often missed.
- A green light permits a left turn; it never grants priority over oncoming cars.
- Flashing red and flashing yellow are not twins: one stops you, one cautions you.
- Any answer built on adjusting to conditions usually beats any answer built on the posted number.

Official sources

- Illinois General Assembly (ilga.gov) — Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/6-107 — Graduated license:
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/ILCS/Fulltext?DocName=062500050K6-107>
- Illinois General Assembly (ilga.gov) — Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/6-107.1 — Instruction permit for a minor:
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/ILCS/Fulltext?DocName=062500050K6-107.1>
- Illinois General Assembly (ilga.gov) — Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/6-118 — Fees:
<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/ILCS/Fulltext?DocName=062500050K6-118>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/driving/illinois-road-signs