

Michigan Road Signs Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

— Scored questions	— Time limit	— Passing score
\$0 Exam fee	Michigan Department of ... Governing body	— Pass rate

The numbers to remember

- Michigan requires passing two separate checks: a written knowledge test and a road sign test — signs are their own graded section, not a subsection buried inside the written test.
- The Michigan Department of State does not publish a fixed question count or numeric passing score for either test — ignore any specific figure you see quoted elsewhere as if it were official.
- Since there's no published cutoff, the only safe target is near-complete mastery across every sign category, not a minimum percentage on an average.
- Both the written knowledge test and the road sign test must be passed to move forward in Michigan's licensing process — passing one does not exempt you from the other.

Sign shapes at a glance

- Red octagon = stop (the only sign with this shape, recognizable even if damaged).
- Red/white downward triangle = yield.
- Yellow diamond = general warning (curves, crossings, merges); orange diamond = construction/work-zone warning.
- Pentagon = school zone or school crossing.
- Circle = railroad crossing ahead.
- White rectangle, black text = regulatory (speed limits, turns, one-way).
- Green rectangle = guide/directions; blue = services; brown = recreation and parks.

Right-of-way in one breath

- No signs at an intersection: the driver on the right generally goes first.
- Four-way stop: first to arrive goes first; simultaneous arrivals, driver on the right proceeds while the other waits.
- Yield = slow or stop for crossing/merging traffic, not automatic passage.
- Pedestrians in marked or unmarked crosswalks outrank turning vehicles.
- Emergency vehicles with lights/siren active always go first — pull right and stop.
- Right-of-way is granted moment to moment, not owned outright — it can be forfeited by unsafe driving even when a sign technically favors you.

Top traps

- Treating the posted speed limit as automatically safe in rain, snow, fog, or on gravel — the posted number assumes ideal conditions only.
- Confusing yellow advisory speed plaques (recommendations for curves/ramps) with legal limits — they aren't the same thing, though ignoring them is a common crash cause.
- Assuming a yield sign means you always go — it means yield if needed, not proceed regardless of crossing traffic.
- Forgetting that fatigue and mild impairment reduce reaction time and judgment before a driver subjectively feels affected.
- Skipping picture-based drilling — the real test shows you the sign image, not its name, so memorize by shape and color

family first, then meaning.

- Assuming a published passing score exists for Michigan's written or sign test — it does not, so aim for consistency across every category instead of chasing a single target number.

Official sources

- Michigan Department of State — New drivers (under 18) - Michigan Department of State:
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/license-id/new-drivers-under-18>
- Michigan Department of State — Michigan Secretary of State now offers online driver's license testing for adults:
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/resources/news/2025/07/02/michigan-secretary-of-state-now-offers-online-drivers-license-testing-for-adults>
- Michigan Department of State — What Every Driver Must Know — Chapter 1: Your Driver's License (Michigan Secretary of State):
https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/01piercej/WEDMK_Chapter_One_Your_Drivers_License.pdf

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