

New Jersey Road Signs Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

50 Scored questions	— Time limit	80% (40 of 50 questions) Passing score
\$0 Exam fee	New Jersey Motor Vehicl... Governing body	— Pass rate

The Numbers to Remember

- The knowledge test has 50 scored questions.
- There's also one extra, non-scored organ-donation survey question tacked on at the end — it doesn't count toward your score, so don't overthink it or panic if it feels unrelated to driving.
- Passing requires 80%, which is 40 correct out of the 50 scored questions.
- That gives you a built-in margin — up to 10 misses and you still pass, so don't let one uncertain answer rattle the rest of your run.
- There's no partial credit and no curve — 40 of 50 is the whole target, so aim to clear it with room to spare in practice before test day.

Sign Shapes at a Glance

- Red octagon = stop (the only sign with 8 sides, recognizable from any angle).
- Red-and-white triangle = yield.
- Yellow diamond = general warning ahead.
- Pentagon = school zone/crossing.
- Round/circle = railroad crossing.
- White rectangle, black text = regulatory rule (speed, turns, parking).
- Green rectangle = guide/direction sign.
- Orange = construction/work zone.
- If you can name the shape and color before reading a single word, you already know the sign's category.

Right-of-Way in One Breath

- First to arrive at an uncontrolled intersection or 4-way stop goes first; if tied, yield to the driver on your right.
- Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians before completing a left turn.
- Pedestrians in a crosswalk, marked or not, generally have the right-of-way.
- Pull right and stop for emergency vehicles running lights and sirens.
- Merging traffic yields to traffic already established in the lane it's entering.
- Right-of-way is something others give you, never something you take — answer test questions from that mindset.

Top Traps

- Assuming a posted speed limit is always safe — conditions like rain, fog, or heavy traffic can lower the safe speed below the sign.
- Treating the 3-second following gap as fixed — it should grow substantially on wet, snowy, or icy roads.
- Forgetting that fatigue behaves like impairment — slowed reaction time and microsleeps are real risks, not just alcohol/drug effects.
- Underestimating a quick phone glance — even a few seconds at speed covers real distance essentially blind.

- Picking the shape/color question wrong by reading only the text and ignoring what the shape itself already tells you.
- Studying the whole manual again instead of re-drilling just your missed questions — targeted repetition closes gaps faster than starting over each time.
- Skipping a final practice test the night before — one last run confirms the recognition speed you'll need, without cramming new material.

Official sources

- New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission — New Jersey Driver Manual (Revised 09/25):
<https://www.nj.gov/mvc/pdf/license/drivermanual.pdf>
- New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission — NJ MVC | Sample Knowledge Test:
https://www.nj.gov/mvc/license/sample_knowledge_test.htm
- New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) — New Jersey driver knowledge test — official test description:
<https://www.nj.gov/mvc/pdf/license/drivermanual.pdf>

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