

South Dakota Road Signs Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

— Scored questions	— Time limit	80% or higher Passing score
\$0 Exam fee	South Dakota Departme... Governing body	— Pass rate

The numbers to remember

- Passing score: 80% or higher on both the knowledge test and the driving test.
- You get 3 test attempts per fee paid, within a 6-month window.
- Fail a test? You must wait until the next working day to retest.
- Testing is by appointment at a driver exam station — no walk-ins.
- There is no official sample test published by the state; study the manual and a built practice test instead.
- Instruction Permit: minimum age 14, fee \$28, held for 275 continuous days (or 180 after driver's ed).
- 50 supervised hours required before the road test, including 10 after dark and 10 in bad weather.
- Restricted Permit minimum age: 16. Driver License fee: \$38. CDL fee: \$43. Duplicate license: \$20.
- Motorcycle endorsement needs a separate motorcycle knowledge test in addition to the operator's test.
- Seatbelts are required for anyone under 18, front and back seats.

Sign shapes at a glance

- Red octagon = stop. Red/white triangle = yield.
- Yellow diamond = warning. Orange = construction/work zone.
- White rectangle = regulatory (speed limits, restrictions).
- Green rectangle = guide/directional. Blue = services. Brown = recreation.
- Fluorescent yellow-green = pedestrian/school/bike warnings.

Right-of-way in one breath

- First to arrive at a stop, first to go; simultaneous arrival, the driver on the left yields to the driver on the right.
- Left turns yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians.
- Pedestrians in any crosswalk always have the right-of-way.
- Emergency vehicles with lights/sirens always get the right-of-way — pull right and stop.
- When unsure, yield. Yielding is never the wrong test answer.

Top traps

- Confusing warning (yellow) with regulatory (white) signs — warning signs advise, regulatory signs are legally binding.
- Assuming right-of-way is something you take — it's always given, never assumed.
- Forgetting that a failed test locks you out until the next working day, so rushing into test day underprepared is costly.
- Studying only sign shapes and skipping seatbelt, speed, and impairment rules — these show up just as often.
- Assuming a sample test exists — it doesn't, so a practice test built from the manual is your best substitute.

Official sources

- South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Driver Licensing Program — South Dakota Driver License Testing Information (SD DPS): https://www.sd.gov/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=KB0043731

- South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Driver Licensing Program — South Dakota Teen Driver Graduated Licensing (Instruction Permit / Restricted Minor's Permit), Effective 05/2025:
https://www.sd.gov/sys_attachment.do?sys_id=e10c01f11b0aee506cbca93be54bcb2d
- South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Driver Licensing Program — Driver License/ID Card Fees (SD DPS):
https://www.sd.gov/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=KB0043708

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