

Iowa Road Signs Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

25 Questions	— Time limit	80% or higher Passing score
\$0 Exam fee	Iowa Department of Tran... Governing body	

The numbers to remember

- The practice test generates 25 questions at random from a larger official bank.
- You need 80% or higher to pass.
- Instruction permit: eligible at 14 years old; fee is \$6.
- Intermediate license: at least 16 years old, with a 6-month clean driving record right before applying.
- Supervised driving: 20 hours total before the intermediate license, including 10 hours on the intermediate permit itself, with 2 of those hours between sunset and sunrise.
- The adult supervising must be at least 21 years old (25 if not family).
- Class C license fee runs \$4 per year of the term.
- Iowa's Skip the Trip program lets an eligible teen's parent proctor the knowledge exam.
- Before any of that, applicants complete a vision screening, the knowledge test, driver's education if under 18, and a driving test.
- Signs and rules of the road are Chapter 2 of the Iowa Driver's Manual.

Sign shapes at a glance

- Octagon = stop, always — the only sign shaped this way.
- Downward triangle = yield.
- Diamond = warning ahead (curve, crossing, merge).
- Pentagon = school zone.
- Round = railroad crossing.
- Rectangle = regulatory rule or guide info.
- Red = stop/yield/prohibited.
- Yellow = warning.
- Orange = construction.
- Green = directions/distance.
- Blue = services (gas, food, lodging, hospitals).
- White = regulatory (speed limits).

Right-of-way in one breath

Right-of-way is given, never taken. First to arrive at a stop goes first; if tied, yield to the driver on your right. That same logic holds at every uncontrolled four-way intersection. Pedestrians in any crosswalk, marked or unmarked, beat turning cars. Vehicles already inside a roundabout beat vehicles entering it. Merging traffic yields to the road it's joining, not the other way around. Emergency vehicles with lights and sirens always go first — pull right and stop until they pass.

Top traps

- The posted speed limit is a ceiling, not a target — slow below it for rain, fog, snow, or construction, even though the

number on the sign hasn't changed.

- An option that says "drive more carefully" instead of "pull over and stop" when drowsy or impaired is almost always the wrong answer.
- Driving on public roads implies consent to chemical testing if lawfully stopped for suspected impairment; refusing carries its own penalty separate from any impairment charge.
- A missed practice question means relearn the underlying rule, not just memorize that one answer — rerun the practice test since each attempt draws a fresh random 25.
- Sign shape alone can answer a question even with no readable text in the image, so review shapes and colors as a pair, not words.
- Fatigue behaves like impairment: slowed reaction time and the risk of microsleep are treated the same way distracted or drowsy driving is on the test.

Official sources

- Iowa Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division (Iowa DOT MVD) — The Parent's Supervised Driving Program | Iowa DOT: <https://iowadot.gov/media/7147/download>
- Iowa Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division (Iowa DOT MVD) — Instruction Permit for Under Age 18 | Iowa DOT: <https://iowadot.gov/drivers-licenses-ids/get-or-renew-drivers-licenses-ids-permits/under-18-permit-license-or-id/instruction-permit-under-age-18>
- Iowa Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division (Iowa DOT MVD) — Iowa Driver's License Manual | Iowa DOT: <https://iowadot.gov/media/7308/download?inline=>

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