

New Mexico Road Signs Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

—	—	70% or better
Questions	Time limit	Passing score
\$0	New Mexico Motor Vehicle...	
Exam fee	Governing body	

The Numbers to Remember

- Passing score: 70% or better on the Class D/M written test.
- Minimum permit age: 15 years old.
- Instructional permit fee: \$10.00.
- Permit validity: 4 years; must be held at least 6 months before the next step.
- Supervised driving practice: 50 hours total, including 10 hours at night.
- Accompanying/enrolled driver must be at least 21 years old.
- License expired more than 5 years requires a new written test.
- Driver education includes a 3-hour DWI component.
- Fail the test? Wait at least 1 week before retesting — same-day retakes are not allowed.
- Exam available in 8 languages: English, Spanish, Tagalog, Italian, German, French, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

Sign Shapes at a Glance

- Red octagon = stop, always, no exceptions.
- Red/white triangle = yield.
- Yellow diamond = warning ahead; orange diamond = work zone.
- Yellow pentagon = school zone or crossing.
- Yellow circle = railroad crossing.
- White rectangle = regulatory rule (speed, one-way, etc) — legally binding.
- Green rectangle = guide/direction info like exits and distances.
- Blue = services (gas, hospital, rest area); brown = recreation/history sites.

If you can name a sign from shape and color alone before reading the text, you're studying it correctly.

Right-of-Way in One Breath

First to arrive or stop goes first; ties yield to the right. Left turns yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Pedestrians in a crosswalk always have the right-of-way once they've entered it. On a T-intersection, the terminating road yields to the through road. Roundabout entrants yield to traffic already circulating. Always pull over and stop for emergency vehicles with lights and sirens active, and remain stopped until they've fully passed.

Top Traps

- Assuming posted speed limits are always safe — the basic speed law requires slowing below the limit when weather, traffic, or visibility demands it.
- Forgetting that impairment includes drowsiness, medication, and distraction, not just alcohol — all reduce reaction time and judgment.
- Misreading sign shape under pressure — practice recognizing shape and color before reading any text, since that's how the real test presents scenarios.

- Thinking you can retest the same day after failing — New Mexico requires at least a one-week wait, so first-attempt prep matters.
- Underestimating stopping distance on wet or icy roads — increase following distance well beyond the gap you'd use in dry conditions.
- Forgetting the permit basics: 15 minimum age, \$10.00 fee, 4-year validity, and a required 6-month hold before the next step.

Official sources

- New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), Taxation and Revenue Department — Apply for a Learner's Permit | Motor Vehicle Division NM: <https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/nm-drivers-licenses-ids/drivers-license/apply-for-a-learners-permit/>
- New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), Taxation and Revenue Department — Chapter 11: Road And Written Test Requirements | Motor Vehicle Division NM: <https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/chapter-11-road-and-written-test-requirements/>
- New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), Taxation and Revenue Department — Chapter 3: Instructional Permit | Motor Vehicle Division NM: <https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/chapter-3-instructional-permit/>

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