

# Dear Parent, Don't Forget Your Road Map. Red Light, Green Light!

If your teenager is approaching legal driving age, you're probably beginning to experience a little anxiety.

Now is the time to ask, "Is my teen really ready to drive?"

There are a few things to consider, including your teen's maturity level and the skills necessary to be a safe driver.

Good judgment is a product of maturity and experience. So for now, your teen will be learning a lot and must rely on your good judgment to be safe.

It's natural for teens to want to take risks, and a big risk is riding with other teens. Numerous studies have shown that adding just one teen passenger doubles the risk for a fatal crash. With three or more teens in the car, that risk quadruples.

Research also has shown that when parents limit when, where, and how frequently teens drive, teen traffic violations and car crashes decrease.

This Parent Decision Guide isn't meant to be the last word, but it hopefully will help you to make an informed decision about allowing your teen to drive.

Sincerely,

The Division of Community Health and Health Studies

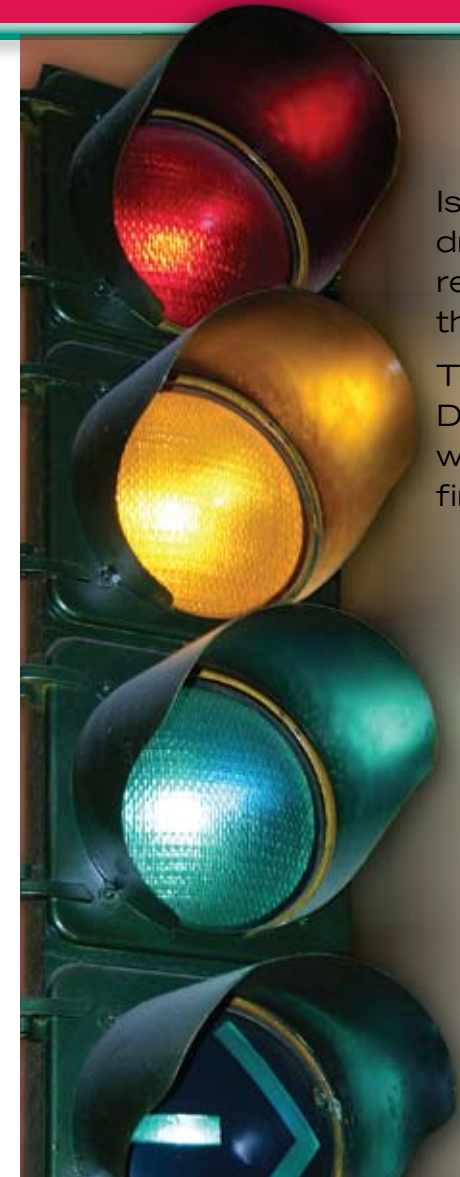
Lehigh Valley Health Network

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The "Road Map to Safe Teen Driving" will help guide you and your teen through the basics of learning how to drive. The "Stay ALERT Contract" can play a crucial role to help you monitor your teen driver. Get yours by calling 610-402-CARE or visit [alertpartnership.org](http://alertpartnership.org) to download and print at home.



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Glance at the behaviors listed top to bottom, and the driving situations running left to right. Where they intersect will give you a general idea of your teen driver's crash risk.

You should approach the decision to allow your teen to drive carefully, cautiously and armed with as much information as possible. This guide is one tool for you to use to make the important decision to allow your teen to drive.

ALL teen drivers are at considerable risk, including yours.

Parents: Remember, this chart is a guide. "Good" teens often act immaturely around other teens, make poor decisions and can fail to recognize how frequently they expose themselves to danger.

