



State Driver Education Laws: Driving Simulator Use

State	Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Training	Classroom Instruction	Observation Time	Notes	Driving Simulator Use	
					Substitute BTW, Classroom or Observation Training	Extended Practice Opportunities
Alabama				No specific number of hours are required for students to complete the BTW phase of driving; however, for overall planning and scheduling purposes, it is recommended that approximately six hours per student be allowed to complete this phase of instruction.		✓
Alaska						✓
Arizona	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. The hours of simulation that can be substituted for behind-the-wheel instruction is determined by curriculum the school submits to the Department.	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education classroom instruction, as determined by curriculum the school submits to the Department.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education observation time.		✓	✓
Arkansas	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training.			Arkansas does not have a behind-the-wheel requirement.	✓	✓
California						✓
Colorado	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training.	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education classroom instruction, and 2 hours of simulation can be substituted for classroom instruction.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education observation time.		✓	✓
Connecticut						✓
Delaware	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education classroom instruction.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education observation time.		✓	✓
Florida						✓
Georgia	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training.			Simulator training shall not be used to substitute for any portion of the six (6) hours of actual BTW training. Rule 375-5-2.17 #6.		✓
Hawaii	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training.			The course must include 30 hours of classroom instruction coupled with either six hours behind-the-wheel or a simulator course and two hours driving.	✓	✓
Idaho						✓
Illinois				Used in public school districts for practice purposes.		✓
Indiana						✓
Iowa	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education classroom instruction.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education observation time.	In addition to simulator time, a minimum of three hours of on-street, behind-the-wheel driving must be completed. 634.4(2) letter h.	✓	✓
Kansas						✓



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Kentucky				Kentucky requires a minor driver to complete 60 hours of practice driving in a vehicle along with a 4-hour classroom instruction.		✓
Louisiana				Simulation training will be for practice purposes and will not substitute for any of the required hours of classroom or behind-the-training.		✓
Maine				Simulation training now used for practice purposes (it was allowed from 1996-2014 for 4 hours simulation to equal 1 hour btw, for a max of 2 of the 10 hours btw that was required). Students must receive at least 70 hours of behind-the-wheel practice on their own, which they may begin after the third classroom session.		✓
Maryland						✓
Massachusetts						✓
Michigan						✓
Minnesota						✓
Mississippi						✓
Missouri				At the present time, the Driver Education Provider and Instructor Act does not permit the use of a driving simulator in lieu of behind-the-wheel or observation		✓
Montana						✓
Nebraska	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.				✓	✓
Nevada						✓
New Hampshire	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education classroom instruction.		No more than 12 hours of simulated, which is equal to 3 hours of actual driving, shall be utilized to substitute for on-the-road experience. Time on the simulator shall not be considered classroom instruction for the purposes of Saf-C 3110.04(b). All time on a driving simulator shall be conducted by a certified driver education instructor. Saf-C 3110.10	✓	✓
New Jersey						✓
New Mexico	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 2 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.				✓	✓
New York						✓
North Carolina						✓



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North Dakota	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 3 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.		Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education observation time.	Three hours of simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel instruction. Course 21015 is an integrated program of minimum 30 hours of classroom instruction combined with at least 3 hours of BTW on-street instruction and 12 hours of simulation.	✓	✓
Ohio						✓
Oklahoma	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.			Simulators may be used to substitute for part of the time requirements in the behind-the-wheel phase of the program. Where such devices are used, a minimum of 3 hours instruction must be given in the vehicle, under actual driving conditions. The time spent on the simulator shall be at the ratio of 4 to 1... 4 hours on a simulator may be substituted for 1 hour of actual behind-the-wheel driving experience. 210-15-19-9. Simulation.	✓	✓
Oregon	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.			Oregon permits the use of driving simulators to apply to up to half the required BTW hours. Four hours of simulation is equal to one hour of BTW instruction. Not more than one-half of the required hours specified for BTW instruction may be given by means of a driving simulator, in accordance with the ratio for driving simulator to BTW instruction found in OAR 737-015-0020(4). An instructor must complete a workshop in driving simulation operation and application before providing instructions on the driving simulator	✓	✓
Pennsylvania						✓
Rhode Island						✓
South Carolina						✓
South Dakota						✓
Tennessee						✓
Texas	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.		Your state does allow driving simulators as part of driver education observation time. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of in-car observation driving.	Four periods of at least 55 minutes per hour of instruction in a simulator may be substituted for one hour of BTW instruction and one hour of in-car observation. However, a minimum of four hours must be devoted to actual BTW instruction	✓	✓
Utah						✓
Vermont					✓	✓
Virginia						✓
Washington	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education classroom instruction.	Your state does not allow driving simulators as part of driver education observation time.		✓	✓
West Virginia						✓



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Wisconsin	Your state allows driving simulators as part of driver education behind-the-wheel training. Note: 4 hours of driving simulation can be substituted for 1 hour of behind-the-wheel driving.			Driving time may be replaced by time using a driving simulator at the rate of 4 hours simulator training equaling 1 hour of BTW training. Provided all training is with the same school instructor. Only 3 hours of driving time can be subbed by time in a driving simulator.	✓	✓
Wyoming						✓
District of Columbia						✓

Sourced from ADTSEA, September 2022. VDI not responsible for accuracy of data. Refer to your state laws for more details.