



Legislative Report

Exam scheduling

March 1, 2026

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Exam scheduling

Executive summary

A behind-the-wheel road test is a crucial safety check when determining if a prospective driver can maintain safe control over a motor vehicle and has the situational awareness to react to and anticipate real-world driving conditions. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) division offers class D road tests at 90 locations and commercial driving exams at 20 exam stations across Minnesota.

Each year by March 1 and Sept. 1, DVS must submit reports on road test examination scheduling. The reports are submitted to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation policy and finance in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 171.13.11.

The March 1 report includes information on the previous calendar year. The report must identify performance measures and metrics related to scheduling availability and passage of road tests. It must include the results for the performance measures, and include the rate at which applicants are able to obtain an appointment for a road test compared to the number of individuals who experienced a delay in booking an appointment.

The Sept. 1 report includes information on the previous fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

This report examines Minnesota's class D road test availability from Jan. 1, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2025. The measures and metrics established by the commissioner have all been met. Exams are available in or adjacent to the county of the applicant, accessible within 14 days and visible in real time on the department website.

Performance measures established by the commissioner

DVS adheres to performance measures established by the Minnesota Legislature.

According to statute, applicants may take exams in their own county or an adjacent one, be able to obtain an appointment within 14 days of their request, and access real-time information on the DVS website about the availability and location of exam appointments (Minnesota Statutes, section 171.13, subdivision 1(5)(c)(d)(e)).

Results for the performance measures

Metric 1, availability by county

The ability to test within the county or adjacent county (Minnesota Statutes, section 171.13, subdivision 1(5)(c)) was impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic when DVS closed all but 14 of

the 93 driver's license exam stations in Minnesota. This was necessary to ensure the health and safety of customers and employees and was a result of the stay-at-home executive order. The county requirement was again satisfied when exam stations reopened, which was completed by Jan. 31, 2022.

Metric 2, ability to obtain appointments

The performance measure (Minnesota Statutes, section 171.13, subdivision 1(5)(d)) stating applicants should be able to schedule exam appointments within 14 days of the applicant's request cannot currently be measured. Applicants can only request a time slot that is currently available; therefore, there are no delays by the state's definition. Each applicant has their own preferred exam date. DVS has no way to track what that preferred date is. Since DVS does not track what an individual's preferred date may be or what their purpose is for accessing the website, there is no data to indicate if someone is actively searching for open appointments, the time frame in which they are looking or if they are checking multiple locations for appointment availability.

Beginning in February 2025, DVS began recording all available class D road test appointments within the 30-day reservation window. Data was captured each Monday morning, and commercial vehicle test availability was added to the data collection in April. Road tests were consistently available in all 10 regions for both class D and commercial road tests, ensuring this metric was met.

Throughout the data collection period ending January 2026, DVS averaged 6,828 available class D and 169 commercial appointments at any given time. This is up from 5,983 available class D and 93 commercial appointments in FY25.

Figure 1. Available class D road test appointments, February 2025-January 2026

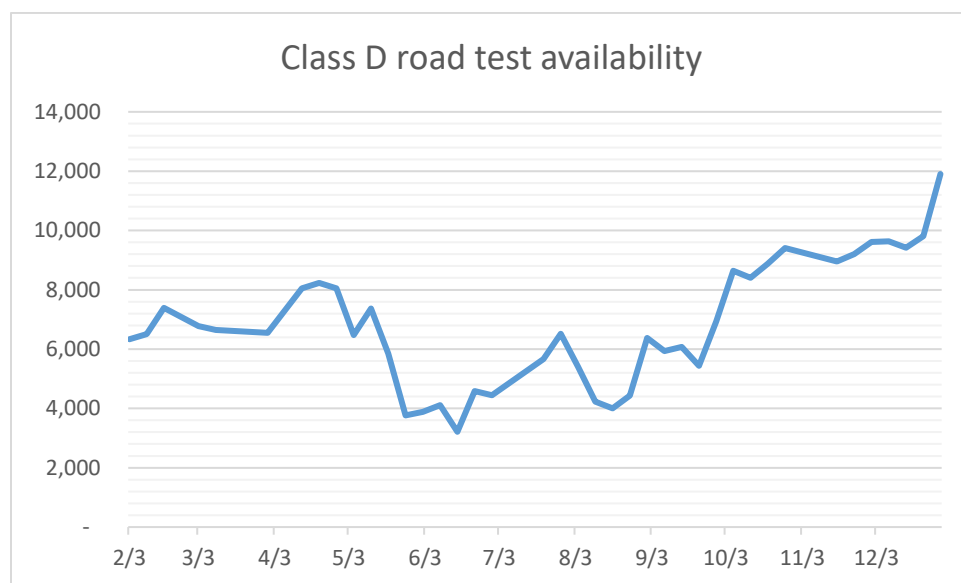
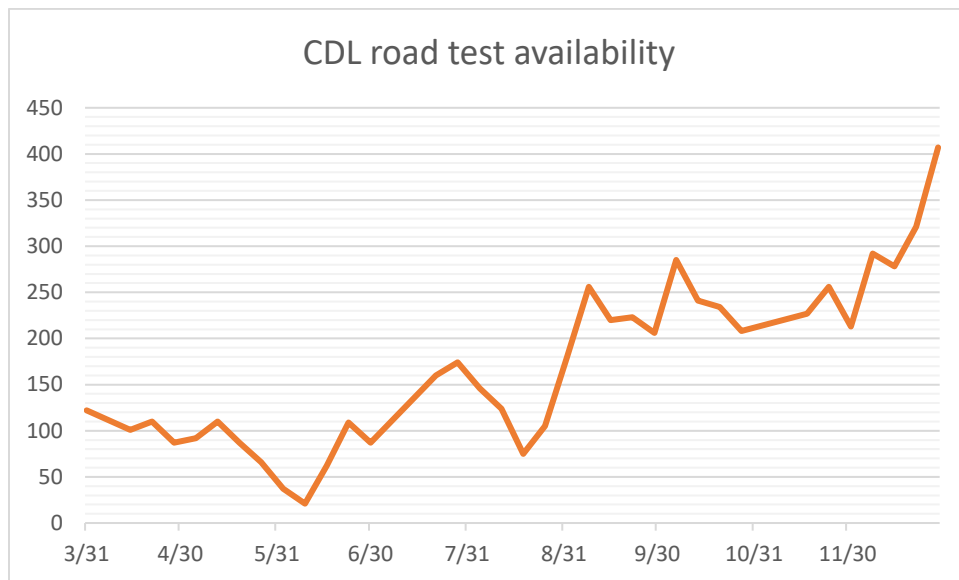


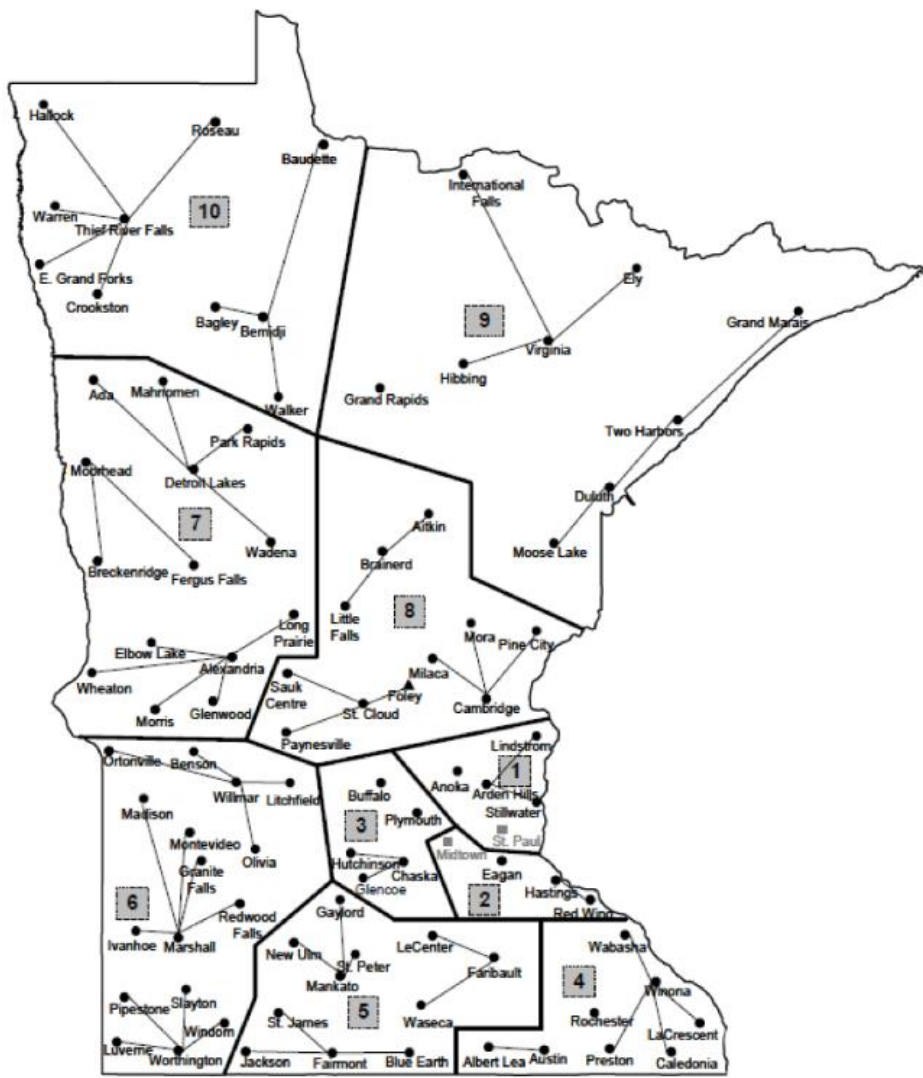
Figure 2. Available CDL road test appointments, April 2025-January 2026



Metric 3, department website

DVS has consistently met the requirement to have real-time appointment information on its website (Minnesota Statutes, section 171.3, subdivision 1(5)(e)). The website shows the next available exam dates and times for each exam station and provides an option for a person to enter an address to see the date and time of the next available exam at each exam station, sorted by distance from the address provided.

Figure 3. A map of exam regions



Appendix

Sources of data

MNDRIVE report, Location Class D Skill Exam Appointment Availability, Feb. 3, 2025-Dec. 29, 2025.

MNDRIVE report, Location CDL Skill Exam Appointment Availability, March 31, 2025-Dec. 29, 2025.

DVS Online Services website, [e-Services - Schedule Appointment - Select Service](#).