



NYS DMV READIES TO ENFORCE OVERHAUL OF DRIVER'S LICENSE POINT SYSTEM

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is readying to enforce the 2024 changes to the State's Driver's License Point System.

Adopted in November 2024, the updated driver's license point system is expected to be enforced following an upgrade to DMV computer systems. It was announced last week that all DMV offices will close February 13th through February 18th to upgrade their computer systems. Phone and online services will also be unavailable during the upgrade. Offices will reopen and online services will resume on February 18th.

2026 Increases in DMV Traffic Violation Points:

<u>Violation</u>	<u>New Points</u>	<u>Old Points</u>
Speeding	4	3
Speeding in a construction zone (any speed over the limit)	8	Varies
Using a cell phone while driving	6	5
Passing or overtaking a stopped school bus	8	5
Reckless driving	8	5
Failure to yield to a pedestrian	5	3
Following too closely	5	4
DWI/DWAI/DWAI-Drugs	8-11	0

Violations that now have points include:

- Equipment problems (broken taillights) 1 point
- Illegal U-turns: 2 points
- Obstructing traffic: 2 points
- Failure to move over for emergency vehicles: 3 points.
- Aggravated Unlicensed Operation (AUO): 11 points.
- Facilitating Aggravated Unlicensed Operation: 5 points.
- Speed Contests or Races: 5 points.

Administrative Changes

- License Suspension Threshold: A license may be suspended if a driver accumulates 10 points within a 24-month period. The current rule is 11 points in 18 months.
- Longer "Look-Back" Period: The DMV will review a driver's record over a longer, 24-month period to determine "persistent violators".
- Driver Responsibility Assessment (DRA): Accumulating six or more points within 18 months will still result in a mandatory DRA fee, payable over three years. Violations from up to two years ago can now contribute to license suspension or Driver Responsibility Assessment (DRA) penalties which remain at \$100 per year for the first 6 points and \$25 per year for each additional point, payable annually.
- Earlier Warning Letters: Drivers who accumulate 4-6 points in a 24-month period will receive an early warning letter.
- Mandatory Driver-Improvement Clinic: Drivers with 7-10 points must complete a driver-improvement clinic, a program separate from the voluntary defensive-driving course. Drivers with 7 to 10 points must attend a Driver Improvement Clinic.
- Suspension Hearings: Drivers must attend a formal hearing if they accumulate 11 or more points within 24 months or meet other thresholds; at the hearing, the DMV will determine whether to suspend the license.