

What is the purpose of the knowledge exam?

DMV uses knowledge exams to test applicants' ability to recognize highway signs and knowledge of traffic laws and safe-driving practices.

How is the exam given?

The knowledge and highway signs tests are administered through an Automated Knowledge Testing System (AKTS). Tests available on AKTS include English, Spanish, Chinese, Hmong, Russian, Polish, Serbo-Croatian and Somali. An audio assist option is available for customers with reading or language difficulty. A department-approved interpreter may be used for hearing-impaired persons or to meet special language needs.

Who is required to take the exam?

The exams are required for:

- original instruction permits
- special restricted licenses
- original CDL endorsements
- original or renewal school bus endorsements
- renewal of CDL HazMat endorsements
- The exams are also required for individuals applying for renewal or reinstatement of a license expired more than 8 years.

Where are exams given?

DMV offers knowledge exams at Service Centers on a walk-in basis. The exams are also given at many local high schools and some driver training schools in conjunction with their driver-education programs.

What does it cost?

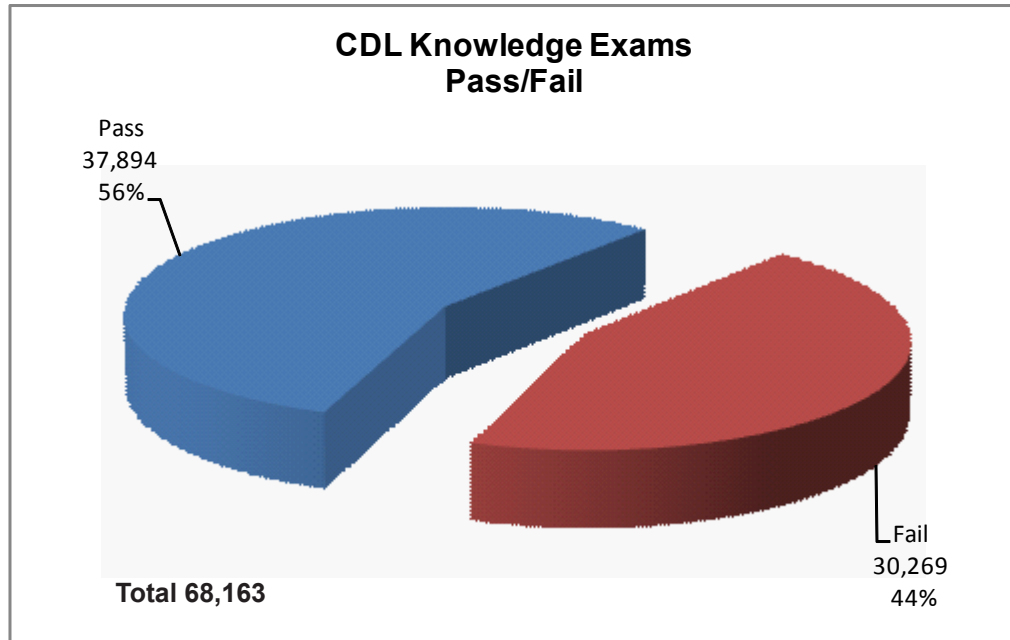
There is no cost for taking a knowledge exam. Upon successful completion of the exam, the applicant is issued either an instructional permit or a license for a fee. See "Driver License," "Driving Skills Test," and "Instruction Permits" for applicable fees.

How many exams are conducted annually?

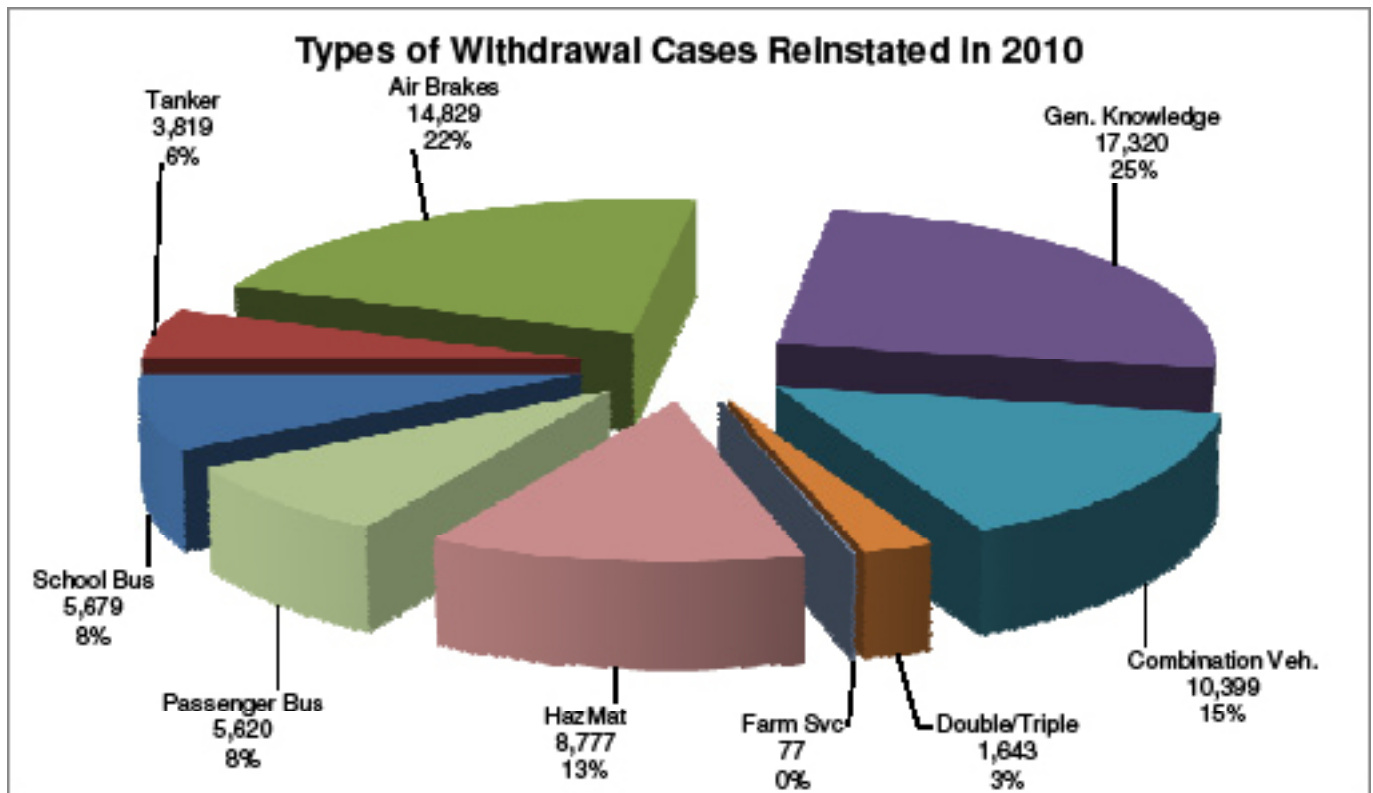
Over 239,000 knowledge exams were conducted in 2009.

For more information contact:

Bureau of Field Services
Technical and Training Services Section
(608) 266-8686
or any local DMV Service Center



Source: Bureau of Field Services 3089 Annual Report



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