



Traffic Safety - Signs and Regulations Around Schools and Playgrounds



HOW YOU CAN HELP TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AROUND SCHOOLS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

By driving children to school, parent-drivers may be creating dangerous traffic conditions around schools and playgrounds. To help create a safe traffic environment around schools and playgrounds, leave your car at home and encourage children to walk, in-line skate, cycle, or take transit to school. To enhance traffic safety for children and other road users, exercise these traffic safety practices:



No Parking Zones

Do not park in a NO PARKING zone. Stopping briefly to drop-off or pick-up a passenger is permitted. Waiting in your vehicle or leaving your vehicle unattended is prohibited under by-law 89-2000.

No Stopping Zone

Do not stop in a NO STOPPING zone for any reason. NO STOPPING zones are designated in areas where a stopped vehicle could obstruct the visibility of other drivers and pedestrians and increase the likelihood of a traffic collision.



The following NO STOPPING zones do not require signage: no stopping within 1.5 metres of a driveway; 3 metres of a fire hydrant.



School Area Signs

This sign provides advance warning to motorists that they are approaching a school area. Slow down, drive with extra caution and watch for children.

School Crossing

This sign warns of a school crossing. Watch for children and follow the directions of the crossing guard. Drivers are not required to stop when the crossing guard is not at the crossing.



Crossing Guards

The STOP sign carried by the Crossing Guard has the same legal authority as a STOP sign at an intersection. This authority is defined in the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. You must stop when the Crossing Guard is about to enter the roadway with the stop sign is in an upright position and remain stopped until the children and Crossing Guard have safely cleared the roadway.

School Buses

Motorists, on any roadway, approaching a stopped school bus with its overhead alternating red signal lights flashing must always stop at least 20 metres before reaching the bus. Motorists may not proceed until the bus resumes motion or the red signal lights have stopped flashing.



Pedestrian Ahead

This sign provides advance warning to motorists that pedestrians may be in the area.



Playground Ahead

This sign provides advance warning of a designated playground that is located adjacent to a section of the roadway. The presence of children on or near the road travelling to or from the playground may present an unexpected hazard to motorist.

The real penalty for not obeying school zone traffic regulations is that you may jeopardize the safety of children and other road users. It is important that drivers respect the traffic control regulations and safety practices to keep our roads safe especially around schools and playgrounds.