

THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN

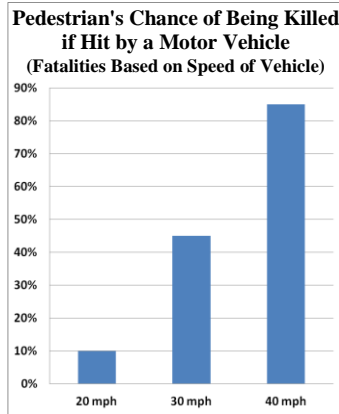
It is important that we drive responsibly, whether in a school zone or not. Although children may be concentrated near a school, every street in every neighborhood at some time has children and other pedestrians using the street and sidewalks. Appropriate driving includes slowing and being prepared to stop for pedestrians, stopping as directed by crossing guards, and yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. Whenever possible, children are encouraged to take the bus or walk to school to reduce congestion and traffic hazards near school grounds.

PARKING NEAR SCHOOLS

The City Of Madison Traffic Engineering Division frequently receives requests from parents, neighbors, and school officials concerned about children's safety near schools. Traffic signs around school property are placed to direct motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and provide separate spaces for motorists and buses to drop children off at the school. Police Parking Enforcement Officers do enforce these regulations.

SPEED KILLS

A pedestrian hit by a motor vehicle traveling at 20 mph has only a 10% chance of being killed. At 30 mph there is a 45% chance the pedestrian will die. At 40 mph this jumps to 85%. Please slow down whenever pedestrians are present, especially around schools and parks.



ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Where there is an adult crossing guard at a crosswalk, you have to obey the crossing guard's directions.



While driving or bicycling on the street,

- Stop when directed to by the crossing guard.

- Stop no closer than 10 feet from the crossing guard.
- Do not block a crosswalk or intersection.
- Stay stopped until the pedestrians and the crossing guard have reached the curb, and stay stopped until the crossing guard has dropped their stop sign. This is your direction to proceed.

When walking or bicycling to school, always cross with the adult school crossing guard when one is present. Student walkers and bicyclists, and their parents, should remain on the sidewalk until the crossing guard has stopped all traffic and gives you a verbal okay to cross. Bicyclists crossing with the adult crossing guard should dismount and walk across the street.

Although children may be concentrated near and around schools, children and other pedestrians can be found on every neighborhood street. Watch for children and other pedestrians everywhere. Slow down whenever pedestrians are present to ensure their safety. Yield to pedestrians at all crosswalks, whether the crosswalk is marked or not.

For more information about School Zone Safety or other traffic issues contact

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SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY



Traffic Information Series

DRIVING NEAR SCHOOLS Warning Signs

SCHOOL ADVANCE WARNING

signs are placed in advance of school grounds, and may be placed in advance of crosswalks children use on their way to and from school. These signs are intended to remind motorists that a school is nearby. You need to watch for children, slow down and be prepared to stop when children are present, and yield to children crossing the street at crosswalks.



SCHOOL CROSSING

signs are located at crosswalks used by children on their way to and from school. These crosswalks may be located at an intersection or at a mid-block crossing location.



Always yield to pedestrians at crosswalks. Remember that not all crosswalks are marked. A crosswalk is simply the extension of a sidewalk across a street at an intersection, whether or not the crosswalk is marked.

A crosswalk can also exist at a mid-block location if the crossing is marked or signed. Since many schools are located mid-block, not at corners, there is often a mid-block crosswalk in front of the school.

DRIVING NEAR SCHOOLS Speed Limit

SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT

The speed limit on a street adjacent to a school, and at any school crossing, is set by state statute at 15 mph unless posted otherwise. Madison typically posts school zones and school crossings at 20 mph.

This speed limit applies whenever children are going to or from school, whenever children are playing within the sidewalk area or are near the school, or at an intersection or mid-block crosswalk marked with a School Crossing sign.

This reduced speed limit is also in effect anytime a school crossing guard is in a crosswalk signed as a school crossing or is placing or removing cones in the street near a crosswalk signed as a school crossing.

While many schools in Madison have School Speed Limit 20 signs on the busier streets, they may only have School Advance Warning signs on an adjacent residential street. The School Advance Warning sign identifies an area where the school zone speed limit is in effect provided children are present, whether or not there is also a school speed limit sign posted. The speed limit would thus be 15 mph on the street with just the School Advance Warning sign.

FINES HIGHER

Traffic fines for speeding in a school zone or at a school crossing are doubled.



DRIVING NEAR SCHOOLS Stopping, Standing and Parking

NO STOPPING STANDING OR PARKING and related signs are used where it is illegal to stop or leave standing any vehicle. **In these areas, you may not drop a child off, pick a child up, wait in your car, or park your car.**

NO PARKING ON SCHOOL DAYS and related signs indicate areas where you may stop and unload passengers, but may not leave your vehicle unattended. These signs are used in areas where parents can drop off or pick up their children near schools. **In these areas, you may drop your child off or wait to pick your child up, however you must remain with your car.**

10 Minute Parking signs are used near schools in areas intended for drivers to be able to park for a short period of time and turn the space over to others who also need to park for a short period of time. For example, when dropping off a student and needing to go inside with the student to bring bulky items into the school, picking up a sick child during the day, etc.



DRIVING NEAR SCHOOLS Stopping, Standing, Parking (cont'd)

State laws prohibit **Stopping, Standing, and/or Parking** in the following areas **all the time, whether or not there are signs indicating these restrictions.**

Stopping, Standing or Parking are prohibited

- Within an intersection.
- On a crosswalk.
- On a sidewalk or sidewalk area
- On the roadway side of any parked vehicle (double parking)
- Anywhere else stopping, standing or parking is prohibited, limited or restricted by official traffic signs

Parking is prohibited

- In a loading zone.
- Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant,
- Within 4 feet of the entrance to an alley or a private road or driveway.
- Within 15 feet of a crosswalk.
- Anywhere else parking is prohibited, limited or restricted by official traffic signs.

DRIVING NEAR SCHOOLS U-Turns

U-turns created unexpected traffic movements that can confuse children and create additional congestion in school zones. When dropping children off at school, or picking them up afterwards, please continue driving in the direction you are heading. Go around the block instead of making a u-turn or turning around in a driveway. You can get a ticket for making a u-turn at any place where a u-turn cannot be made safely or without interfering with other traffic. School zones are generally locations where it would unsafe to make a u-turn.