

SCHOOL ZONE BACKGROUND

A School Zone is a section of roadway with a reduced speed limit of 20 MPH for the intended purpose of protecting school children along roadways bordering a school and at designated school crosswalks.

School Zone Safety is very important to the City of Federal Way. Every effort is made to make school zones safe by providing proper engineering practices, continued law enforcement and proper guidance to children and parents. This brochure provides a brief summary of standards and procedures pertaining to school zone safety within the City of Federal Way.

SIGNS WITHIN SCHOOL ZONES



School Advance Warning Assembly:

Placed in advance of School Crosswalk Warning Assembly and School Speed Limit Assembly to warn drivers that they are entering a school zone.



School Speed Limit Assembly:

Marks the beginning of the School Zone and is in effect per either the "When Children Are Present" or "When Flashing" designation.



No Stopping/Standing Sign:

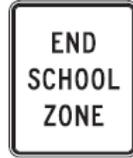
Placed in area where sight visibility of school children is limited. For the safety of children, this sign prohibits parking and pickup/drop-off activities in the posted area during school hours.



School Crosswalk

Warning Assembly:

Placed adjacent to a designated School Crosswalk. Drivers should be prepared to stop for all pedestrians.



End School Zone Sign:

Placed to designate the end of the school zone and at this point the speed limit returns to that designated for the subject street during typical hours.

TYPES OF SCHOOL ZONES

There are two types of school zones:

Reduced Speed School Zone:

A Reduced Speed School Zone establishes a speed limit of 20 MPH on a roadway bordered by a school. Per WAC 468-95-330, this zone can extend up to 300 feet from the school property boundary. The established Reduced Speed School Zone boundaries are designated with School Speed Limit Assembly and End School Zone signs. School Crosswalk Zones are often also contained within this type of school zone.

School Crosswalk Zone:

A School Crosswalk Zone is a special pedestrian crosswalk that has been designated as a Safe Route to School with the intention of protecting school children. A speed limit of 20 MPH is designated for 300 feet on either side of the crosswalk with the School Speed Limit Assembly and End School Zone signs. Additionally, School Advance Warning Assembly and School Crosswalk Warning Assembly signs are placed to inform drivers of the location of the school crosswalk.

WHEN IS A SCHOOL ZONE ACTIVE?

There are two methods employed within the City of Federal Way to designate the times in which a School Zone speed limit of 20 MPH is in effect.

When Children Are Present:



Per Washington State Law, when a school zone is marked with a supplemental sign under the "School Speed Limit 20" sign reading "When Children Are Present" the school speed limit of 20 MPH is in effect during the following conditions:

- 1.) School Children are occupying or walking within the marked crosswalk.
- 2.) School children are waiting at the curb or on the shoulder of the roadway and are about to cross the roadway by way of the marked crosswalk.
- 3.) School children are present or walking along the roadway, either on the adjacent sidewalk or, in the absence of sidewalks, on the shoulder within the posted school speed limit zone.

When Flashing:



The School Zone speed limit of 20 MPH is only in effect during the time in which the flashers are operational.

PICKUP/DROPOFF WITHIN SCHOOL ZONES

For the safety of children, use the following guidelines when picking up or dropping off children and parking within a school zone:

- 1.) Many schools have designated pickup/drop off locations which have been established as the safest locations for such usage. If your school has one, please use this designated pickup/drop-off zone.
- 2.) Do not leave your vehicle other than to assist your children in opening the door or exiting the vehicle. If you must walk children into the school, find a legal parking space and use crosswalks and sidewalks when walking your child to the school door.
- 3.) Never unload children from the street side door of your vehicle. Children should always access the vehicle from the curbside to separate them from moving vehicles.
- 4.) Never allow children to walk between parked vehicles as drivers can not see them and will have limited reaction time if children step into the roadway.
- 5.) Parents, children and other pedestrians should not cross in the middle of the street. Walk to the nearest intersection or crosswalk and follow the provided signage or direction of crossing guards.
- 6.) Be courteous, patient and cautious of other drivers, parents and children within the school zone.



PARKING WITHIN SCHOOL ZONES



Do Not Park within the following areas:

- 1.) Within 30 feet from the beginning and end of a school zone. Such parking obstructs the view of the signage for other drivers.

- 2.) Any area designated with signage as a no parking area.
- 3.) On or within 20 feet of a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Unmarked crosswalks are defined as the extension of the sidewalk or curb extension across an intersection.
- 4.) Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- 5.) Within 30 feet of any flashing signal, stop sign or yield sign.
- 6.) Within an intersection.
- 7.) On a sidewalk or planting strip.
- 8.) In front of or within 5 feet from the curb radius of a driveway.

PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT WITHIN SCHOOL ZONES

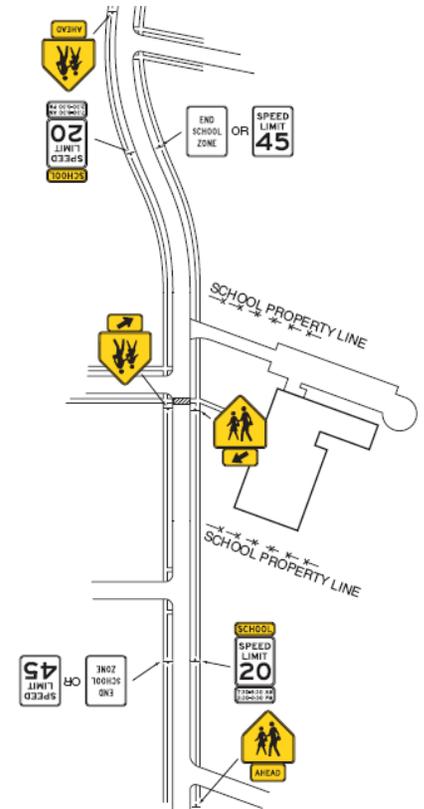


The City of Federal Way Police Department has implemented Photo Speed Enforcement, per RCW 46.63.170, at select school zones within the City that have displayed an abundance of speeding incidents during school zone times. All photo speed enforcement locations are found within certain school zones controlled by School Zone Flashers.

SCHOOL ZONE RESOURCES

City of Federal Way School Zone Flasher Schedules:
<http://www.cityoffederalway.com/Page.aspx?page=543>
Washington Traffic Safety Commission:
<http://www.wtsc.wa.gov/programs/schlzone.php>
Safe Routes to School - Washington:
<http://www.saferoutes-wa.org/>
WSDOT - Safe Routes to School:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/localprograms/saferoutes/>
Manuel of Uniform Traffic Control Devices – Part 7, Traffic Controls for School Areas:
<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/HTM/2003r1/part7/part7-toc.htm>
Washington Administrative Code (WAC) – Chapter 468-95:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=468-95>

SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY



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