



PART 7

Traffic Controls for School Areas

MUTCD 2000

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

m i l l e n n i u m e d i t i o n

December 2000



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

PART 7. TRAFFIC CONTROLS FOR SCHOOL AREAS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
CHAPTER 7A.	GENERAL	Dec., 2000
Section 7A.01	Need for Standards	7A-1
Section 7A.02	School Routes and Established School Crossings	7A-3
Section 7A.03	School Crossing Control Criteria	7A-3
Section 7A.04	Scope	7A-4
Section 7A.05	Application of Standards	7A-4
Section 7A.06	Engineering Study Required	7A-4
Section 7A.07	Maintenance of Traffic Control Devices	7A-4
Section 7A.08	Placement Authority	7A-5
Section 7A.09	Removal of Confusing Advertising	7A-5
Section 7A.10	Meaning of Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support	7A-5
CHAPTER 7B.	SIGNS	Dec., 2000
Section 7B.01	Size of School Signs	7B-1
Section 7B.02	Illumination and Reflectorization	7B-1
Section 7B.03	Position of Signs	7B-1
Section 7B.04	Height of Signs	7B-3
Section 7B.05	Installation of Signs	7B-3
Section 7B.06	Lettering	7B-3
Section 7B.07	Sign Color for School Warning Signs	7B-3
Section 7B.08	School Advance Warning Sign (S1-1)	7B-4
Section 7B.09	School Crosswalk Warning Assembly (S1-1 with Diagonal Arrow) ..	7B-4
Section 7B.10	SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD Sign (S3-1)	7B-7
Section 7B.11	School Speed Limit Assembly (S4-1, S4-2, S4-3, S4-4, S5-1)	7B-7
Section 7B.12	School Reduced Speed Ahead Assembly	7B-8
Section 7B.13	END SCHOOL ZONE Sign (S5-2)	7B-9
Section 7B.14	Parking and Stopping Signs (R7 and R8 Series)	7B-9
CHAPTER 7C.	MARKINGS	Dec., 2000
Section 7C.01	Functions and Limitations	7C-1
Section 7C.02	Standardization of Application	7C-1
Section 7C.03	Crosswalk Markings	7C-1
Section 7C.04	Stop Line Markings	7C-2
Section 7C.05	Curb Markings for Parking Regulations	7C-2
Section 7C.06	Pavement Word and Symbol Markings	7C-3

CHAPTER 7D. SIGNALSDec., 2000

Section 7D.01 General7D-1

CHAPTER 7E. CROSSING SUPERVISIONDec., 2000

Section 7E.01 Types of Crossing Supervision7E-1

Section 7E.02 Adult Guards7E-1

Section 7E.03 Qualifications of Adult Guards7E-1

Section 7E.04 Uniform of Adult Guards and Student Patrols7E-2

Section 7E.05 Operating Procedures for Adult Guards7E-2

Section 7E.06 Police Officers7E-2

Section 7E.07 Student Patrols7E-3

Section 7E.08 Choice of Student Patrols7E-3

Section 7E.09 Operating Procedures for Student Patrols7E-3

CHAPTER 7F. GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSINGSDec., 2000

Section 7F.01 Function7F-1

Section 7F.02 Types of Grade-Separated Crossings7F-1

Section 7F.03 Criteria for Use of Grade-Separated Crossings7F-1

FIGURES

CHAPTER 7A. GENERAL

Figure 7A-1 Typical School Route Plan Map7A-2

CHAPTER 7B. SIGNS

Figure 7B-1 Typical Signing for School Area Traffic Control7B-6

CHAPTER 7C. MARKINGS

Figure 7C-1 Two-Lane Pavement Marking of "SCHOOL"7C-4

TABLES

CHAPTER 7B. SIGNS

Table 7B-1 Size of School Area Signs and Plaques7B-2

CHAPTER 7A. GENERAL

Section 7A.01 Need for Standards

Support:

It is important to stress that regardless of the school location, the best way to achieve safe and effective traffic control is through the uniform application of realistic policies, practices, and standards developed through engineering judgment.

Pedestrian safety depends upon public understanding of accepted methods for efficient traffic control. This principle is especially important in the control of pedestrians, bicycles and other vehicles in the vicinity of schools. Neither school pedestrians nor road users can be expected to move safely in school areas unless they understand both the need for traffic controls and how these controls function for their benefit.

Procedures and devices that are not uniform might cause confusion among pedestrians and road users, prompt wrong decisions, and contribute to crashes. To achieve uniformity of traffic control in school areas, comparable traffic situations need to be treated in a consistent manner. Each traffic control device and control method described in Part 7 fulfills a specific function related to specific traffic conditions.

A uniform approach to school area traffic controls assures the use of similar controls for similar situations (which promotes uniform behavior on the part of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists).

A school traffic control plan permits the orderly review of school area traffic control needs, and the coordination of school/pedestrian safety education and engineering activities.

Guidance:

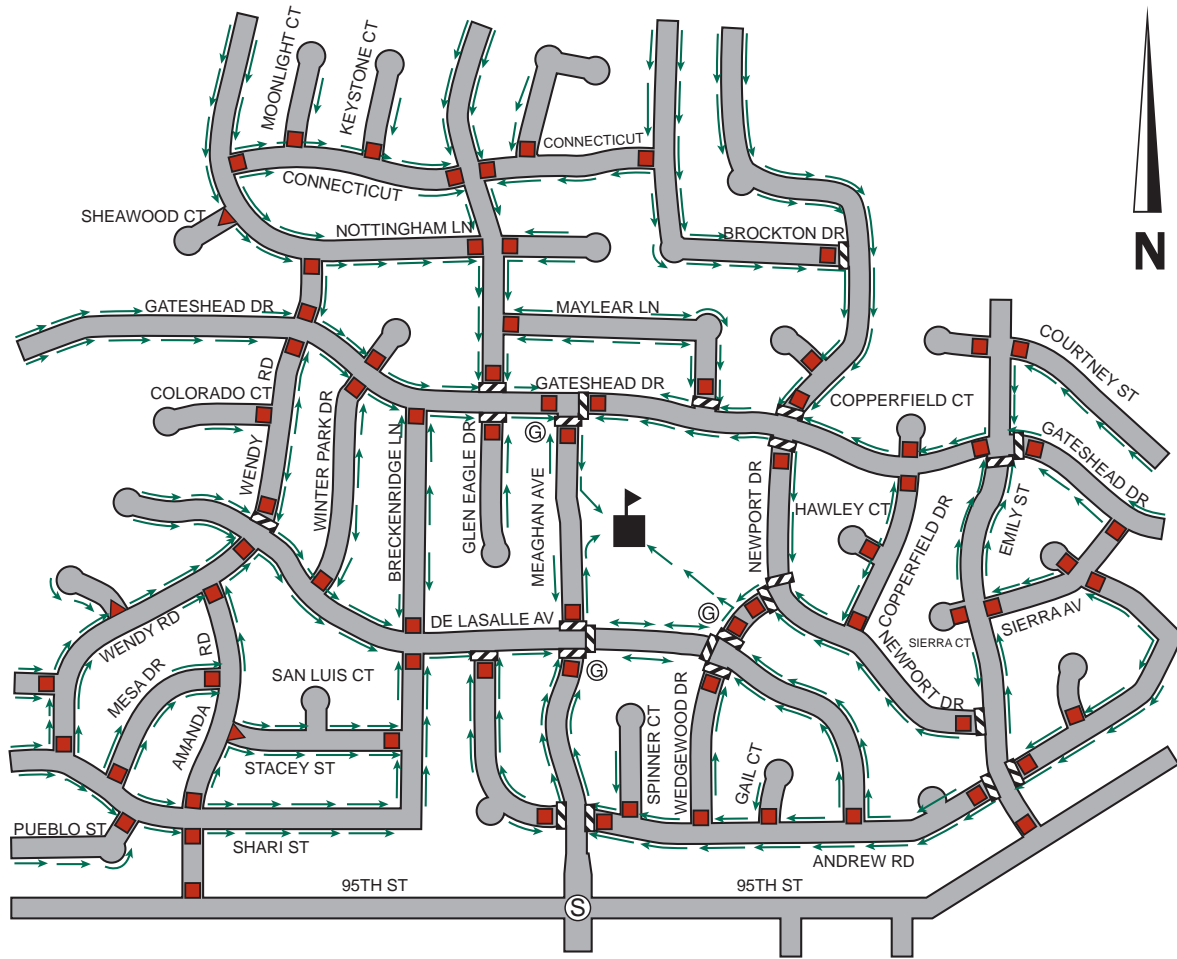
A school route plan for each school serving elementary to high school students should be prepared in order to develop uniformity in the use of school area traffic controls and to serve as the basis for a school traffic control plan for each school.

The school route plan, developed in a systematic manner by the school, law enforcement, and traffic officials responsible for school pedestrian safety, should consist of a map showing streets, the school, existing traffic controls, established school walk routes, and established school crossings. A typical school route plan map is shown in Figure 7A-1.








Standard:

The type(s) of school area traffic control devices used, either warning or regulatory, shall be related to the volume and speed of vehicular traffic, street width, and the number and age of the students using the crossing.

Figure 7A-1. Typical School Route Plan Map



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------------|
|  | School |  | Signalized Intersection |
|  | Marked Crosswalk |  | STOP Sign Approach |
|  | Crossing Guard |  | YIELD Sign Approach |
| | |  | Pedestrian Route |

Guidance:

School area traffic control devices should be included in a school traffic control plan.

Support:

Reduced speed limit signs for school areas and crossings are included in this Manual solely for the purpose of standardizing signing for these zones and not as an endorsement of mandatory reduced speed zones.

Section 7A.02 School Routes and Established School Crossings**Support:**

The planning criterion for school walk routes might make it necessary for children to walk an indirect route to an established school crossing located where there is existing traffic control and to avoid the use of a direct crossing where there is no existing traffic control.

Guidance:

School walk routes should be planned to take advantage of existing traffic controls.

The following factors should be considered when determining the feasibility of requiring children to walk a longer distance to a crossing with existing traffic control:

- A. The availability of adequate sidewalks or off-roadway sidewalk areas to and from the location with existing control,
- B. The number of students using the crossing,
- C. The age levels of the students using the crossing, and
- D. The total extra walking distance.

Section 7A.03 School Crossing Control Criteria**Support:**

Alternate gaps and blockades are inherent in the traffic stream and are different at each crossing location. For safety, students need to wait for a gap in traffic that is of sufficient duration to permit reasonably safe crossing. When the delay between the occurrence of adequate gaps becomes excessive, students might become impatient and endanger themselves by attempting to cross the street during an inadequate gap.

A recommended method for determining the frequency and adequacy of gaps in the traffic stream is given in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' publication, "School Trip Safety Program Guidelines" (see Section 1A.11).

Section 7A.04 Scope

Standard:

Part 7 sets forth basic principles and prescribes standards that shall be followed in the design, application, installation, and maintenance of all traffic control devices and other controls required for the special pedestrian conditions in school areas. Such devices and controls include signs, signals, markings, adult crossing guards, student patrols, and grade-separated crossings.

Portable school signs shall not be used.

Support:

Requirements discussed in Chapter 2A and Section 2B.05 are applicable in school areas.

Section 7A.05 Application of Standards

Support:

Sections 1A.02 and 1A.07 contain information regarding the application of standards.

Section 7A.06 Engineering Study Required

Support:

Section 1A.09 contains information regarding engineering studies.

Section 7A.07 Maintenance of Traffic Control Devices

Support:

Section 1A.05 contains information regarding the maintenance of traffic control devices.

Section 7A.08 Placement Authority

Support:

Section 1A.08 contains information regarding placement authority for traffic control devices.

Section 7A.09 Removal of Confusing Advertising

Support:

Section 1A.08 contains information regarding the removal of confusing advertising.

Section 7A.10 Meaning of Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support

Support:

The introduction to this Manual contains information regarding the meaning of the headings Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support, and the use of the words shall, should, and may.

CHAPTER 7B. SIGNS

Section 7B.01 Size of School Signs

Standard:

The sizes of signs and plaques to be used on conventional roadways in school areas shall be as shown in Table 7B-1.

The Standard sign size shall be used on public roads, streets, and highways unless engineering judgment determines that a Special sign size would be more appropriate.

The Special sign size shall be used on expressways.

Option:

The Special sign size may be used for applications that require increased emphasis, improved recognition, or increased legibility.

The Minimum sign size may be used on local residential streets, in urban areas, and where there are low traffic volumes and low vehicle speeds, as determined by engineering judgment.

Section 7B.02 Illumination and Reflectorization

Standard:

The signs used for school area traffic control shall be retroreflectorized or illuminated.

Section 7B.03 Position of Signs

Guidance:

Signs should be placed in positions where they will convey their messages most effectively without restricting lateral clearance or sight distances. Placement therefore should consider highway design, alignment, vehicle speed, and roadside development.

Signs should have a maximum practical clearance from the edge of the traveled way for the safety of vehicles that might leave the roadway and strike the sign supports. Except as noted in the Option, signs should not be closer than 1.8 m (6 ft) from the edge of a paved shoulder, or if none, 3.7 m (12 ft) from the edge of the traveled way.

Table 7B-1. Size of School Area Signs and Plaques

Sign	MUTCD Code	Conventional Roads		
		Minimum	Standard	Special
School Crossing	S1-1	750 x 750 mm (30 x 30 in)	900 x 900 mm (36 x 36 in)	1200 x 1200 mm (48 x 48 in)
School Bus Stop Ahead	S3-1	750 x 750 mm (30 x 30 in)	750 x 750 mm (30 x 30 in)	900 x 900 mm (36 x 36 in)
End School Zone	S5-2	600 x 750 mm (24 x 30 in)	600 x 750 mm (24 x 30 in)	900 x 1200 mm (36 x 48 in)
Speed Limit (School Use)	R2-1	600 x 750 mm (24 x 30 in)	600 x 750 mm (24 x 30 in)	900 x 1200 mm (36 x 48 in)

Plaque	MUTCD Code	Conventional Roads		
		Minimum	Standard	Special
8:30 AM TO 5:30 PM	S4-1	600 x 250 mm (24 x 10 in)	900 x 375 mm (36 x 15 in)	1200 x 500 mm (48 x 20 in)
When Children Are Present	S4-2	600 x 250 mm (24 x 10 in)	900 x 500 mm (36 x 20 in)	1200 x 750 mm (48 x 30 in)
School	S4-3	600 x 200 mm (24 x 8 in)	900 x 300 mm (36 x 12 in)	1200 x 400 mm (48 x 16 in)
When Flashing	S4-4	600 x 250 mm (24 x 10 in)	900 x 375 mm (36 x 15 in)	1200 x 500 mm (48 x 20 in)
XXX Feet	W16-2	600 x 450 mm (24 x 18 in)	750 x 600 mm (30 x 24 in)	750 x 600 mm (30 x 24 in)
XXX Feet	W16-2a	600 x 300 mm (24 x 12 in)	750 x 450 mm (30 x 18 in)	750 x 450 mm (30 x 18 in)
Ahead	W16-9p	600 x 250 mm (24 x 10 in)	900 x 500 mm (36 x 20 in)	1200 x 750 mm (48 x 30 in)
Diagonal Arrow	W16-7	600 x 300 mm (24 x 12 in)	750 x 450 mm (30 x 18 in)	750x 450 mm (30 x 18 in)
Metric	R2-6p	600 x 250 mm (24 x 10 in)	900 x 500 mm (36 x 20 in)	1200 x 750 mm (48 x 30 in)

Option:

In urban areas, a lesser clearance of not less than 0.6 m (2 ft) from the face of the curb may be used. In urban areas, where sidewalk width is limited or existing poles are close to the curb, a clearance of 0.3 m (1 ft) from the curb face may be used.

Section 7B.04 Height of Signs**Support:**

Section 2A.18 contains information regarding the mounting height of signs.

Section 7B.05 Installation of Signs**Support:**

Section 2A.21 contains information regarding the installation of signs.

Section 7B.06 Lettering**Support:**

The "Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs and Pavement Markings" contains information regarding sign lettering.

Section 7B.07 Sign Color for School Warning Signs**Standard:**

Except as noted in the Option, school warning signs shall have a yellow background with a black legend and border unless specifically designed otherwise.

Option:

The following signs may have a fluorescent yellow-green background with a black legend and border:

- A. School Crossing sign (S1-1),
- B. School Bus Stop Ahead sign (S3-1),
- C. SCHOOL plaque (S4-3),
- D. School Speed Limit sign (S5-1),

- E. XXX FEET plaque (W16-2 series),
- F. AHEAD plaque (W16-9p), and
- G. Diagonal Arrow plaque (W16-7).

Guidance:

When the fluorescent yellow-green background color is used, a systematic approach featuring one background color within a zone or area should be used. The mixing of standard yellow and fluorescent yellow-green backgrounds within a zone or area should be avoided.

Section 7B.08 School Advance Warning Sign (S1-1)

Standard:

The School Advance Warning (S1-1) sign shall be used in advance of any installation of the School Crossing sign.

If used, the School Advance Warning sign shall be installed not less than 45 m (150 ft) nor more than 210 m (700 ft) in advance of the school grounds or school crossings (see Figure 7B-1).

The School Advance Warning sign shall be used in advance of the first installation of the School Speed Limit sign assembly.

If used, the School Advance Warning sign shall be supplemented with a supplemental plaque with the legend AHEAD (W16-9p) or XXX METERS (XXX FEET) (W16-2 or W16-2a) to provide advance notice to road users of crossing activity.

Guidance:

The School Advance Warning (S1-1) sign should be installed in advance of locations where school buildings or grounds are adjacent to the highway.

Section 7B.09 School Crosswalk Warning Assembly (S1-1 with Diagonal Arrow)

Standard:

If used, the School Crosswalk Warning assembly shall be installed at the marked crosswalk, or as close to it as possible, and shall consist of a School



S1-1



W16-9p

OR



W16-2

OR



W16-2a

OR



OR



S1-1



W16-7

School Crosswalk
Warning Assembly



S3-1



S4-3



S2-5a

School Reduced
Speed Ahead
Assembly



S4-3



R2-1

OR



S4-1

OR



S4-2

OR



S4-4

School Speed Limit
Assembly



R2-6P



S4-3



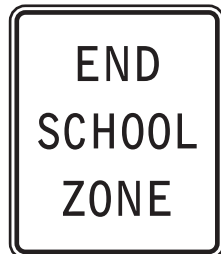
R2-1



S4-1

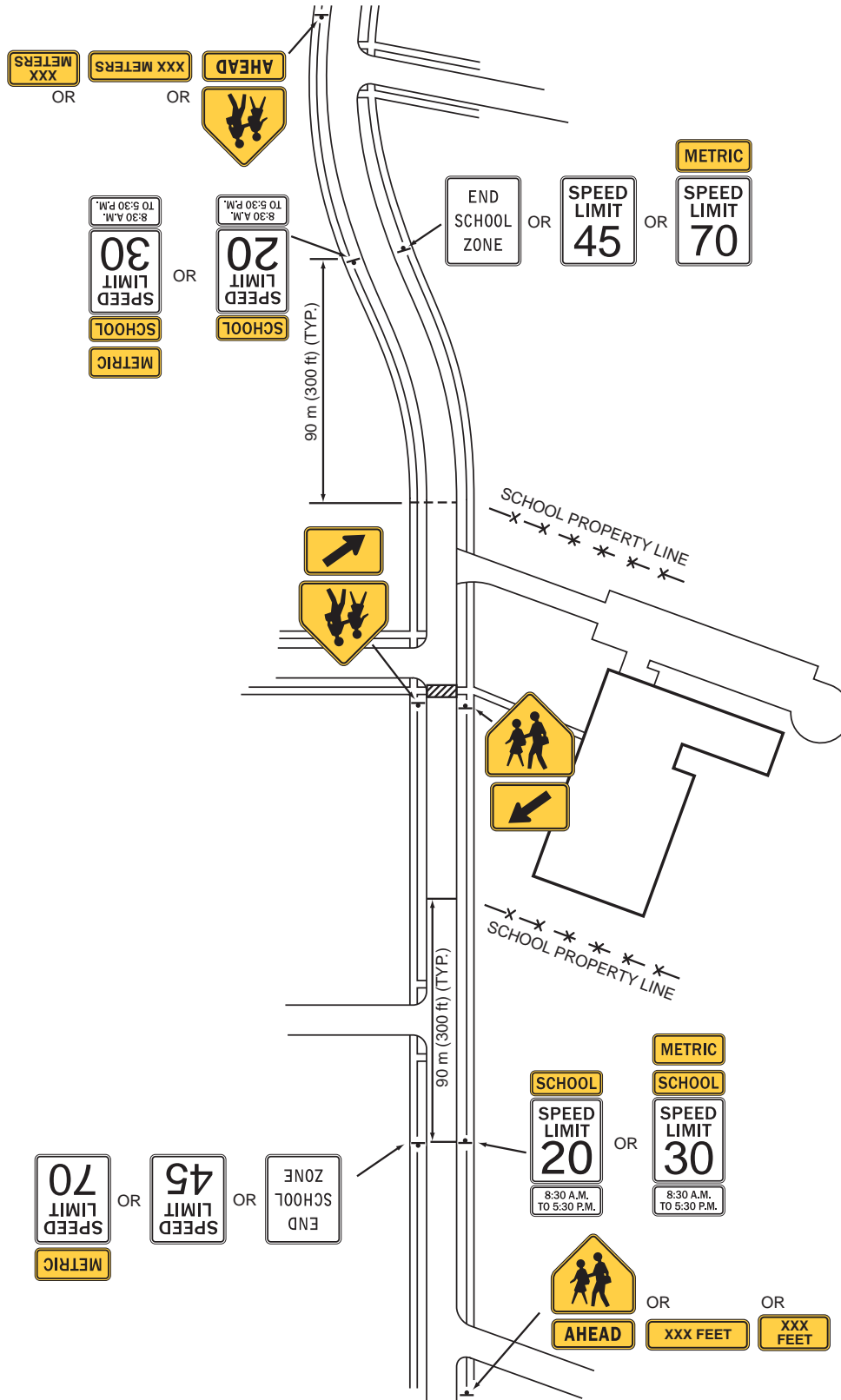


S5-1



S5-2

Figure 7B-1. Typical Signing for School Area Traffic Control



Advance Warning (S1-1) sign supplemented with a diagonal downward pointing arrow (W16-7) plaque to show the location of the crossing.

The School Crosswalk Warning assembly shall not be used at marked crosswalks other than those adjacent to schools and those on established school pedestrian routes.

The School Crosswalk Warning assembly shall not be installed on approaches controlled by a STOP sign.

Guidance:

The School Crosswalk Warning assembly should be installed at marked crosswalk(s), including those at signalized locations, used by students going to and from school (see Figure 7B-1) as determined by an engineering study.

Section 7B.10 SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD Sign (S3-1)

Guidance:

The SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD (S3-1) sign should be installed in advance of locations where a school bus, when stopped to pick up or discharge passengers, is not visible for a distance of 150 m (500 ft) in advance and where there is no opportunity to relocate the bus stop to provide 150 m (500 ft) of visibility.

Section 7B.11 School Speed Limit Assembly (S4-1, S4-2, S4-3, S4-4, S5-1)

Standard:

A School Speed Limit assembly or a School Speed Limit (S5-1) sign shall be used to indicate the speed limit where a reduced speed zone for a school area has been established (in accordance with law based upon an engineering study) or where a speed limit is specified for such areas by statute. The School Speed Limit assembly or School Speed Limit sign shall be placed at or as near as practical to the point where the reduced speed zone begins.

Guidance:

The reduced speed zone should begin at a point either 60 m (200 ft) from the crosswalk, or 90 m (300 ft) from the school property line, whichever is encountered first as traffic approaches the school.

Standard:

The School Speed Limit assembly shall be either a fixed-message sign assembly or a changeable message sign.

The fixed-message School Speed Limit assembly shall consist of a top plaque (S4-3) with the legend SCHOOL, a Speed Limit (R2-1) sign, and a bottom plaque (S4-1, S4-2, or S4-4) indicating the specific periods of the day and/or days of the week that the special school speed limit is in effect.

Guidance:

Even though it might not always be practical because of special features to make changeable message signs conform in all respects to the accepted standards, during the periods that the school speed limit is in effect, their basic shape, message, legend layout, and colors should conform to the standards for fixed-message signs.

A confirmation beacon or device to indicate that the speed limit message is in operation should be considered for inclusion on the back of the changeable message sign.

Option:

Changeable message signs may be used to inform drivers of the special school speed limit. If the sign is internally illuminated, it may have a white legend on a black background. Changeable message signs with flashing beacons may be used for the more critical situations, where greater emphasis of the special school speed limit is needed.

Changeable message signs may use blank-out messages or other methods in order to display the school speed limit only during the periods it applies.

A Speed Limit Sign Beacon also may be used, with a WHEN FLASHING legend, to identify the periods that the school speed limit is in effect. The lenses of the Speed Limit Sign Beacon may be positioned within the face of the School Speed Limit (S5-1) sign.

Section 7B.12 School Reduced Speed Ahead Assembly

Option:

The School Reduced Speed Ahead assembly may be used to inform the road users of a reduced speed zone when engineering judgment indicates that advance notice would be appropriate.

Standard:

If used, the School Reduced Speed Ahead assembly shall consist of the REDUCED SPEED AHEAD (R2-5a) sign in combination with the SCHOOL (S4-3) plaque mounted above it.

If used, the School Reduced Speed Ahead assembly shall be followed by a School Speed Limit sign or a School Speed Limit assembly.

Section 7B.13 END SCHOOL ZONE Sign (S5-2)**Standard:**

The end of an authorized and posted school speed zone shall be marked with a standard Speed Limit sign showing the speed limit for the section of highway that follows or with an END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign.

Section 7B.14 Parking and Stopping Signs (R7 and R8 Series)

Option:

Parking and stopping regulatory signs may be used to prevent parked or waiting vehicles from blocking pedestrians' views, and drivers' views of pedestrians, and to control vehicles as a part of the school traffic plan.

Support:

Parking signs and other signs governing the stopping and standing of vehicles in school areas cover a wide variety of regulations. Typical examples of regulations are as follows:

- A. No Parking 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM School Days Only.
- B. No Stopping 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM School Days Only.
- C. 5 Min Loading 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM School Days Only.
- D. No Standing 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM School Days Only.

Sections 2B.34, 2B.35, and 2B.36 contain information regarding the signing of parking regulations in school zone areas.

CHAPTER 7C. MARKINGS

Section 7C.01 Functions and Limitations

Support:

Markings have definite and important functions in a proper scheme of school area traffic control. In some cases, they are used to supplement the regulations or warnings provided by other devices, such as traffic signs or signals. In other instances, they are used alone and produce results that cannot be obtained by the use of any other device. In such cases they serve as an effective means of conveying certain regulations, guidance, and warnings that could not otherwise be made clearly understandable.

Pavement markings have limitations. They might be obliterated by snow, might not be clearly visible when wet, and might not be durable when subjected to heavy traffic. In spite of these limitations, they have the advantage, under favorable conditions, of conveying warnings or information to the road user without diverting attention from the road.

Section 7C.02 Standardization of Application

Standard:

Each standard marking shall be used only to convey the meaning prescribed for it in this Manual.

Section 7C.03 Crosswalk Markings

Standard:

When transverse crosswalk lines are used, they shall be solid white, marking both edges of the crosswalk, except as noted in the Option. They shall be not less than 150 mm (6 in) nor greater than 600 mm (24 in) in width.

Guidance:

Crosswalk lines should not be spaced less than 1.8 m (6 ft) apart.

Crosswalk lines on both sides of the crosswalk should extend across the full width of pavement to discourage diagonal walking between crosswalks.

Crosswalks should be marked at all intersections on established routes to school where there is substantial conflict between drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrian movements, where students are encouraged to cross between intersections, or where students would not otherwise recognize the proper place to cross.

Option:

For added visibility, the area of the crosswalk may be marked with white diagonal lines at a 45-degree angle to the line of the crosswalk or with white longitudinal lines parallel to traffic flow. When diagonal or longitudinal lines are used to mark a crosswalk, the transverse crosswalk lines may be omitted.

Guidance:

The diagonal or longitudinal lines should be 300 to 600 mm (12 to 24 in) wide and spaced 300 to 600 mm (12 to 24 in) apart. The spacing design should avoid the wheel paths.

Section 7C.04 Stop Line Markings**Standard:**

Stop lines are solid white lines extending across approach lanes to indicate the point at which the stop is intended or required to be made.

Guidance:

Stop lines should be 300 to 600 mm (12 to 24 in) wide. Stop lines should be used to indicate the point behind which vehicles are required to stop, in compliance with a STOP sign or traffic signal. Stop lines, if used, should be placed 1.2 m (4 ft) in advance of the nearest crosswalk line, except at roundabouts as provided for in Section 3B.24. In the absence of a marked crosswalk, the stop line should be placed at the desired stopping point, but should be placed no more than 9 m (30 ft) nor less than 1.2 m (4 ft) from the nearest edge of the intersecting traveled way.

Stop lines should be placed to ensure sufficient sight distance for all approaches to an intersection. Stop lines at mid-block signalized locations should be placed at least 12 m (40 ft) in advance of the nearest signal indication (see Section 4D.15).

Section 7C.05 Curb Markings for Parking Regulations**Standard:**

Signs shall be used with curb markings in those areas where curb markings are frequently obliterated by snow and ice accumulation, unless the no parking zone is controlled by statute or local ordinance.

Guidance:

When curb markings are used without signs to convey parking regulations, a legible word marking regarding the regulation (such as "No Parking" or "No Standing") should be placed on the curb.

Option:

Local authorities may prescribe special colors for curb markings to supplement standard signs for parking regulation.

Support:

Since yellow and white curb markings are frequently used for curb delineation and visibility, it is advisable to establish parking regulations through the installation of standard signs (see Sections 2B.34 through 2B.36).

Section 7C.06 Pavement Word and Symbol Markings**Support:**

Word and symbol markings on the pavement are used for the purpose of guiding, warning, or regulating traffic.

Standard:

Word and symbol markings shall be white. Word and symbol markings shall not be used for mandatory messages except in support of standard signs.

Guidance:

Large letters and numerals should be 1.8 m (6 ft) or more in height. All letters, numerals, and symbols should be in accordance with the "Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs and Pavement Markings."

Word and symbol markings should not exceed three lines of information.

If a pavement marking word message consists of more than one line of information, it should read in the direction of travel. The first word of the message should be nearest to the road user.

The longitudinal space between word or symbol message markings, including arrow markings, should be at least four times the height of the characters for low speed roads, but not more than ten times the height of the characters under any conditions.

Except as noted in the Option, pavement word and symbol markings should be no more than one lane in width.

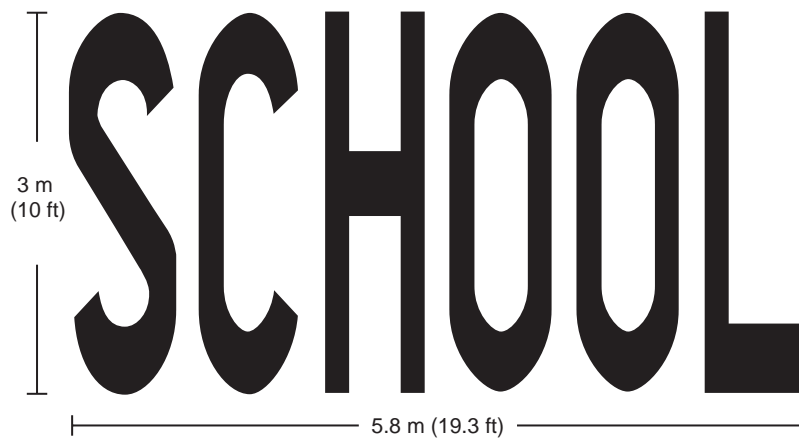
Option:

The SCHOOL word marking may extend to the width of two approach lanes (see Figure 7C-1).

Guidance:

If the two-lane SCHOOL word marking is used, the letters should be 3 m (10 ft) or more in height.

Figure 7C-1. Two-Lane Pavement Marking of "SCHOOL"



CHAPTER 7D. SIGNALS

Section 7D.01 General

Support:

Part 4 contains information regarding highway traffic signals in school areas. The School Crossing signal warrant is described in Section 4C.06.

CHAPTER 7E. CROSSING SUPERVISION

Section 7E.01 Types of Crossing Supervision

Support:

There are two types of school crossing supervision:

- A. Adult control of pedestrians and vehicles by adult guards or police officers.
- B. Student control of only pedestrians with student patrols.

Information for the organization, operation and administration of an adult crossing guard program are given in "Civilian Guards For School Crossings" (available from the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University, 405 Church Street, Evanston, IL 60204) and "Adult School Crossing Guards" (available from the American Automobile Association, Falls Church, VA 22042).

Information for the organization, administration and operation of a student patrol program are given in "Policies and Practices for School Safety Patrols" (available from the American Automobile Association, Falls Church, VA 22042).

Section 7E.02 Adult Guards

Option:

Adult guards may be used to provide gaps in traffic at school crossings where an engineering study has shown that adequate gaps need to be created (see Section 7A.03), and where authorized by law.

Section 7E.03 Qualifications of Adult Guards

Support:

High standards for selection of adult guards are essential.

Guidance:

Adult guards should possess the following qualifications:

- A. Average intelligence
- B. Good physical condition, including sight, hearing, and mobility
- C. Mental alertness
- D. Neat appearance
- E. Good character

- F. Dependability
- G. Sense of responsibility for safety of students

Section 7E.04 Uniform of Adult Guards and Student Patrols

Guidance:

Adult guards should be uniformed so that road users and pedestrians can recognize them and respond to their signals. The uniforms should be distinctively different from those worn by regular police officers.

Adult guards and student patrols should wear high-visibility retroreflective material or clothing similar to that set forth in Section 6E.02.

Police officers should wear high-visibility retroreflective material over their uniform when directing nighttime operations.

Section 7E.05 Operating Procedures for Adult Guards

Guidance:

Adult guards should not direct traffic in the usual police regulatory sense. In the control of traffic, they should pick opportune times to create a safe gap. At these times, they should stand in the roadway to indicate that pedestrians are about to use or are using the crosswalk, and that all vehicular traffic must stop.

Adult crossing guards should use a STOP paddle. The STOP paddle should be the primary hand-signaling device.

Standard:

The STOP paddle shall be an octagonal shape. The background of the STOP face shall be red with at least 150 mm (6 in) series capital white letters and border. The paddle shall be at least 450 mm (18 in) in size and have the word message STOP on both sides. The paddle shall be retroreflectorized or illuminated when used during hours of darkness.

Section 7E.06 Police Officers

Option:

Police officers may be used for school crossing supervision.

Section 7E.07 Student Patrols

Option:

Students patrols may be used to direct and control pedestrians at crossings near schools where adequate gaps in traffic occur frequently enough that gaps do not need to be created.

Student patrols may be used to direct and control pedestrians at signalized intersections where turning movements are not a significant problem, and may be used to assist adult guards in the control of pedestrians at crossing locations used by large numbers of pedestrians.

Guidance:

Student patrols should not be responsible for directing vehicular traffic. They should not function as police officers or adult guards.

Section 7E.08 Choice of Student Patrols

Guidance:

Student patrols should be carefully selected. They should be students from the fifth grade or higher. Leadership and reliability should be determining qualities for patrol membership.

Parental approval should be obtained in writing before a student is used as a member of a student patrol.

Section 7E.09 Operating Procedures for Student Patrols

Guidance:

Student patrols should use a flagging device to stop pedestrians behind the curb or edge of the roadway, and should allow them to cross only when there is an adequate gap in traffic.

Standard:

Flagging devices used during periods of twilight or darkness shall be retroreflective or illuminated.

Because they are not authorized to direct vehicular traffic, student patrols shall not use a STOP paddle.

CHAPTER 7F. GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSINGS

Section 7F.01 Function

Option:

Grade-separated crossings may be used to physically separate the crossing of school pedestrian traffic and vehicular flow.

Section 7F.02 Types of Grade-Separated Crossings

Option:

Grade-separated crossings may be either overpasses over the highway or underpasses under the highway.

Guidance:

The design should follow the guidelines given in the published policies of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, such as "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" (see Section 1A.11).

Support:

Experience has shown that overpasses are more satisfactory than underpasses for pedestrian crossings, as overpasses are easier to maintain and supervise.

Section 7F.03 Criteria for Use of Grade-Separated Crossings

Guidance:

If use of the grade separation will be less convenient to pedestrians than an at-grade crossing, barriers or supervision should be considered to assure a satisfactory level of use.

