

Section 7A.2

POLICY FOR SCHOOL AREAS

7A.2.1 MUTCD SECTION REFERENCE

Section 7 Traffic Control for School Areas-General

7A.2.2 SCHOOL WARNING SIGN ASSEMBLY (S1-1 AND W16-9p)

School Warning Sign Assembly shall be warranted when the school has at least one driveway on a state route and enrollment is greater than 100 students in any combination of grades K-12.

Schools accepting state vouchers may receive a permit to install all school warning signs and flashing beacons when the school has at least one driveway on a state route no matter the number of students attending the school. DOTD will not be required to install or maintain these signs.

Colleges, Universities and Preschools/Daycares shall not be signed or marked as a School Zone.

7A.2.3 SCHOOL CROSSWALKS

A School Crosswalk shall be warranted when the School Warning Sign Assembly is warranted and the volume of school children crossing the state route exceeds 10 during a period extending from not earlier than 45 minutes before school starts until 15 minutes after school starts or a period from 15 minutes before the end of school to 45 minutes after school ends.

A School Crosswalk shall not be installed:

1. within 600 ft of another school crosswalk or a pedestrian crosswalk
2. at any location that has inadequate stopping sight distance
3. where approach speeds exceed 50 mph
4. for colleges, universities and preschools/daycares
5. for loading and unloading zones

7A.2.4 REDUCED SCHOOL SPEED ZONES

A Reduced School Speed Zone may be installed for schools where the School Warning Sign Assembly is warranted.

7A.2.5 FLASHING SCHOOL SIGNS

DOTD will not install or maintain flashing beacon signs at schools. The school, school board or local government may complete a Warning Sign & School Sign with Flashing Beacon Permit and submit to the appropriate District Office. The sign post shall be break away.

To obtain a Warning Sign & School Sign with Flashing Beacon permit:

1. A Warning Sign & School Sign with Flashing Beacon permit must be signed by an official of the local government, school board or school administration requesting the sign
2. The request must specify where the signs will be placed. This includes the distance from the edge of the travel lane and sign location in relation to the school property
3. The following must be attached to the request:
 - a. A map illustrating where the signs will be placed
 - b. A shop drawing of the signs which would indicate type of material, size of sign, height of assembly, height of foundation from the pavement, electrical service
 - c. Foundation design

7A.2.6 TIME

The enforceable periods of reduced speed in a Reduced Speed School Zone shall be as short a duration as possible. The enforcement period shall be a time extending from not earlier than 45 minutes before school begins until 15 minutes after school begins and a period extending from 15 minutes prior to the end of school to not later than 45 minutes after school ends.

A supplemental plaque stating the times of operations (S4-1) should be placed under the reduced speed limit sign. If a flashing beacon is installed by the school then the supplemental plaque WHEN FLASHING (S4-4 or S5-1) may be placed under the reduced speed limit sign.

If a flashing beacon is installed by the school and an adult crossing guard is present, then the flashing beacon should be operated manually and only while the crossing guard is present.

7A.2.7 SPEED REDUCTIONS

Table 7A.2.1 Speed Limit Reductions for a School Zone

The following table should be used as a reference for maximum speed limit reductions:

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS	
EXISTING SPEED LIMIT (MPH)	REDUCTION (MPH)
25 OR LESS	0
30	5
35-45	10
50 OR ABOVE	15

7A.2.8 CHIEF ENGINEER'S ORDER

If a Reduced School Speed Zone is justified then a Chief Engineer's Order must be written. The Chief Engineer's Order shall include the reduced speed, the beginning and ending control section log-miles and the time of the Reduced School Speed Zone.

The time will be stated such that the Reduced School Speed Zone shall start in the morning 45 minutes before the start of school and shall end 15 minutes after the start of school. The afternoon Reduced School Speed Zone shall start 15 minutes before the end of school and shall end 45 minutes after school ends. (Specific times will not be stated in the Order.)

Example of School Zone wording for Chief Engineer's Order:

"No person shall operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour on State Route US 65 in Madison Parish between (1) a point located 2888 feet north of its junction with US 80 (C.S. 020-07, LM 0.547) and (2) a point located 3976 feet north of its junction with US 80 (C.S. 020-07, LM 0.753) during school days beginning 45 minutes before school starts until 15 minutes after school starts and 15 minutes before school dismissal until 45 minutes after school dismissal."

7A.2.9 SIGNS AND LOCATIONS

A SCHOOL CROSSWALK WARNING ASSEMBLY (S1-1 AND W16-7p) shall be placed at the crosswalk for both directions of travel.

A SCHOOL ADVANCE WARNING ASSEMBLY (S1-1 AND W16-9p) shall be placed 300' before the crosswalk only when no Reduced Speed Zone is associated with the School Zone.

The SPEED LIMIT XX AHEAD (W3-5) fluorescent yellow-green sign with the SCHOOL (S4-3P) plaque should be used in advance of a reduced school speed zone. This sign should be placed according to the MUTCD Table 2C-4. This sign shall not be placed before an intersection controlled by a stop sign or a traffic signal.

In accordance with Act 410 of 2014, the HANDS FREE ZONE supplemental plaques are to be mounted under the existing school zone speed limit signs via permit only. DOTD will not install the HANDS FREE ZONE sign.

Figure 7A.2.1 Example of Hands Free Zone plaque design and placement





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 sign.

7A.2.10 MAINTENANCE

Every school in the District with school signs and markings on state routes shall be inspected and repaired before the start of the new school year.

7A.2.11 DOCUMENTATION

Each District Traffic Operations Engineer may consider maintaining a Road Log for each school in their District that has any school signs associated with it. The Road Log will consist of a sketch of the area with the following noted (See Figure 7A.2.1):

1. Traffic volumes
2. Pedestrian volumes
3. 85th percentile speed
4. Road characteristics such as width and condition of the roadway, width and condition of shoulders, number of traffic lanes
5. Anything leading to shortened sight distance such as the existence of curves, hills and nearby buildings
6. Parking and loading zones
7. All locations and conditions of traffic control devices such as school crossing signs, pavement markings, signals, school patrol locations, school zone warning signs and speed limit signs
8. Sidewalks
9. Fencing

Figure 7A.2.1 Example of a Road Log for School Zones (page 1 of 2)



ROAD LOG FOR Red Creek Elementary School

State Route LA 45 Enrollment 225
Control Section 450-20 Grades K-5
Beginning Logmile 22.2
Ending Logmile 22.27 Approx. Length of Zone 400 FT

Roadway:

Type: Bit
Width: 24'
Condition: Fair
Number of Traffic Lanes: E 1 W 1

Shoulder:

Type: Gravel (some bit)
Width: 6' – 10'
Condition: Fair

Posted Speed Limit 45 mph
85th Percentile Speed 48 mph

Sight Distance Restriction: No
Vehicular Volumes: 1200 ADT

Pedestrian Volumes: 25 School Children Cross at Willows Sub. in am
20 School Children Cross at Willows Sub. in pm

Crash Experience:

Study Period: 1999-2003
Number of School Related Crashes: None
Number of Pedestrian Accidents: None

Sidewalk on Willows Sub **Condition:** Good

School Cross Walk at Willows Sub. **Condition:** Poor

School Warning Sign Assembly Warrant met Yes

School Crosswalk Warrant met Yes

Reduced School Speed Zone Warrant met Yes if yes then the

Recommended School Speed Limit is 35 mph

Land Use all residential in the school zone, some business located outside of the zone

Cross Traffic at Willows Sub. and Second Street

Sight Distance Restrictions none

General Comments: The school has installed flashing beacons and there is an adult crossing guard on duty in the morning and afternoons to assist the children in crossing both the school driveway and the state highway. Also, there is a chain link fence in front and the west side of the school.

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Date: 3/10/05

Figure 7A.2.1 Example of a Road Log for School Zones (page 2 of 2)

