

School Zone Information Guide



LEGISLATION:

Statutory Definition (C.G. S Section 14-21 2b):

- (1) At the request of the legislative body of a town, city or borough, the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) may **designate** as a school zone any part of a state highway that is adjacent to school property or is, in the opinion of said office, sufficiently close to school property as to constitute a risk to the public safety under all the circumstances. At the request of such legislative body, the office may revoke any such designation.
- (2) A local traffic authority (LTA) may **designate** as a school zone, and may revoke any such designation, any part of a local highway that is adjacent to school property or is, in the opinion of the local traffic authority, sufficiently close to school property as to constitute a risk to the public safety under all the circumstances.

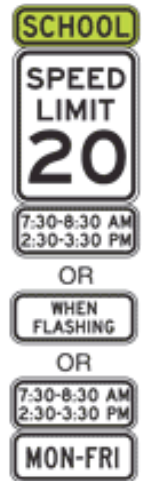
SCHOOL AREA:

- School signs are pentagon shaped and fluorescent yellow/green in color. They can be supplemented with an optional "Ahead" or "School" subplate.
- These signs are **warning**, not regulatory.
- They are typically used to advise road users that they are approaching a school area or a marked school crosswalk, but their presence does not automatically mean that there is a school zone.
- These signs are also used in conjunction with a reduced school speed limit (OSTA has purview on all public roads).



SCHOOL ZONE WITH REDUCED SPEED LIMIT:

- This is an overlay zone with two speed limits.
 - One in effect during specific school days & hours.
 - One in effect during all other hours (background speed limit).
- OSTA has jurisdiction for all speed limits on public roads.
- **On State roads**, School Zone speed limit signs **MUST** have flashers. The flashers are installed and paid for by the municipality under an encroachment permit.
- **On Municipal roads**, the signs can be static or have flashers.
- "School Zone Ahead - Fines Doubled" signs are required when the speed limit is reduced. "End School Zone" signing is also required.



APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL ZONE WITH REDUCED SPEED LIMIT:

- Review the [CT School Zone Checklist](#)
- Contact your [Local Traffic Authority](#)
 - The LTA should then submit an [Application for Approval of Speed Limits](#) to DOT.OSTA@ct.gov which includes the City/Town, road, school name & designation (elementary, middle, or high school), and time frame for speed reductions (typically 2 hours in AM & 2 hours in PM).
- If your school is on a state road:
 - After the LTA submits the application, OSTA will then determine whether a School Zone designation is appropriate given the characteristics of the road.

Find more information about Safe Routes to School
at ct.gov/saferoutes

