Chapter 7

School Area Signs

Sign Color for School Warning Signs (MUTCD 7B.07)

All new school-related warning signs shall be fluorescent yellow-green sheeting.

ODOT policy is to reserve the use of fluorescent yellow-green sign sheeting for school zone signing on state highways including the “SCHOOL” portion of the School Speed Limit (S5-1) sign and any supplemental plaques used in association with these warning signs. Pedestrian and/or Bicycle warning signs should use the standard yellow color. Fluorescent yellow sign sheeting may be used for pedestrian and/or bicycle crossing signs if there is a need to call extra attention to a particular crossing.

The Region Traffic Engineer may allow the use of fluorescent yellow-green for pedestrian/bicycle warning signs on a state highway if the requesting jurisdiction can demonstrate an existing systematic approach to pedestrian signing which includes the fluorescent yellow-green sign background. However, other treatments must be considered before choosing fluorescent yellow-green sign sheeting (e.g. curb extensions, pedestrian refuge islands, Rapid Flash Beacons, etc.). The mixing of standard yellow and fluorescent yellow-green backgrounds for pedestrian/bicycle signs within a selected site area should be avoided.

School Zone Sign and Plaques and End School Zone Sign (S1-1, S4-3P, S4-7P, & S5-2) (MUTCD 7B.09)

At each location that a jurisdiction wishes to establish a school zone a School Zone sign (S1-1) shall be installed. A school zone can be established with or without a reduced school speed limit. The following is the Oregon Revised Statute defining school zones:

801.462 “School zone.”

(1) “School zone” means both of the following:
   a. A specific segment of highway that is adjacent to school grounds and that is marked by signs described in subsection (2) of this section.
   b. A crosswalk that is not adjacent to school grounds and that is marked by signs described in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Signs marking a school zone may include any words, symbols or combination of words and symbols that gives notice of the presence of the school zone. [2003 c.397 §2]

The END SCHOOL ZONE sign (S5-2) shall be used to make the end of a School zone when FINES HIGHER signing is used.

Higher Fines Zone Signs (MUTCD 7B.10)

A BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign or a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P) plaque may be posted in school zones where WHEN FLASHING or WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT
supplemental plaques are also used. Requests and funding for sign installations shall be through the school district.

Where a BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign or a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P) plaque is posted an END SCHOOL ZONE sign shall be installed on the downstream end of the zone to notify users of the termination of the increased fines zone.

School Advance Crossing Assembly (MUTCD 7B.11)

The School Advance Crossing Assembly signs may be omitted in advance of a school crossing.

School Crossing Assembly (MUTCD 7B.12)

An Overhead Pedestrian Crossing Sign (R1-9a) may be used to remind road users of the state law to stop for pedestrians. The sign may be modified to replace the standard pedestrian symbol with the standard schoolchildren symbol and may be used at unsignalized school crossings.

If the overhead signs are mounted in combination with flashing beacons, the flashing beacons shall not be continuously flashing (24 hr./day) if the following is true: the overhead flashing beacons are in a school zone with flashing beacons operated periodically during the day to indicate when children are scheduled to arrive or leave school. Flashing beacons, when used, shall be on the same assembly as the WHEN FLASHING plaque (S4-4P).

School Speed Limit Assembly (S4-1, S4-2, S4-3, S4-4, S4-6, & S5-1) and End School Speed Limit Sign (S5-3) (MUTCD 7B.15)

When a 20-mph school speed zone is established in accordance with ORS 811.111, the School Speed Limit Assembly shall be used. Oregon Revised Statutes specify two conditions under which different supplemental plaques may be used on the School Speed Limit Assembly as shown on the following page.

A 36” School Speed Limit assembly shall be used on all 4-lane highways and rural highways. A 24” assembly may be used on urban 2-lane streets.

The beginning point of the reduced school speed limit should be at least 200 feet in advance of school grounds or a school crossing unless otherwise determined by engineering study.

The END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT Sign (S5-3) is to be used unless a FINES HIGHER Sign is used, if a FINES HIGHER Sign is used a END SCHOOL ZONE Sign (S5-2) shall be used.
Reduced Speed School Zone Ahead Sign (S4-5 & S4-5a)  
(MUTCD 7B.16)

In areas where the posted speed is 35 mph or higher, a REDUCED SPEED SCHOOL ZONE AHEAD (S4-5) sign may be used. If used, this sign should be placed 150 to 250 feet prior to the School Zone (S1-1) sign.

**General Information**

For recommendations and guidance on the appropriate use and locations of signs in school zones, use the ODOT Traffic-Roadway Section publication “A Guide to School Area Safety” with the layouts provided on sheets 7-4 through 7-10.

**School Zone Conditions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION “A”</th>
<th>CONDITION “B”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="School Sign" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="School Sign" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Speed Limit Sign" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Speed Limit Sign" /></td>
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<td><strong>When Flashing</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><img src="image6" alt="Crosswalk" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7" alt="School Days" /></td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Children Present" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 AM - 5 PM</td>
<td>When Children are Present</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**School Zone Signing Layouts**

Standard signing layouts for School Zones are shown in the figures on pages 7-4 through 7-10. All signing for school zones shall follow the standards on these pages.
Continuously flashing (24 Hrs./day) overhead beacons, as shown here, shall not be used in school zones with WHEN FLASHING sign assemblies.

The Overhead Ped Crossing sign may be modified to replace the standard Pedestrian symbol with the standard School Children symbol (from S1-1).

Note: The Overhead Pedestrian Crossing (R1-9a) sign shown here is optional and may be supplemented with the standard ground-mounted School Crosswalk Warning Assembly (S1-1 with Diagonal Arrow).

Note: Existing overhead installations which use either the School (S1-1) sign or the School Crossing sign with crosswalk lines (S2-1 from the 1988 MUTCD) may remain in place for the duration of their service life, at which time they are to be replaced with the Overhead Pedestrian Crossing (R1-9a) sign.
SCHOOL SIGNING
Condition “A” without School Crosswalk

- Adjacent to School Grounds

1. SCHOOL/FINES HIGHER sign assemblies may be used in Condition "A" school zones only with SCHOOL/SPEED LIMIT 20/WHEN FLASHING sign assemblies.
2. Locate the SCHOOL/SPEED LIMIT 20 sign assembly at the beginning of the school speed zone, which is typically 200 feet min. from the school grounds, or as established by an engineering study.
3. Use of a rear-facing flasher is optional for situations where side road traffic enters from within the designated school zone. See Std. Detail DET 4416 for more information on rear-facing flasher units.
4. Use END SCHOOL ZONE sign for zones that include FINES HIGHER signing. The END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT sign is to be used otherwise.
5. SPEED XX or SPEED LIMIT XX sign may instead be installed at the same location as, and on the same support with, the END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT sign.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Approved By: S.T.E.  Date: 05/2004  Updated: 05/2012
1. SCHOOL/FINES HIGHER sign assemblies may be used in Condition "A" school zones only with SCHOOL/SPEED LIMIT 20/WHEN FLASHING sign assemblies.

2. Locate the SCHOOL/SPEED LIMIT 20 sign assembly at the beginning of the school speed zone, which is typically 200 feet min. from the school grounds or the school crosswalk, or as established by an engineering study.

3. Use of a rear-facing flasher is optional for situations where side road traffic enters from within the designated school zone. See Std. Detail DET 4416 for more information on rear-facing flasher units.

4. Use END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT sign for zones that include FINES HIGHER signing. The END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT sign is to be used otherwise.

5. SPEED XX or SPEED LIMIT XX sign may instead be installed at the same location as, and on the same support with, the END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT sign.
1. Locate the SCHOOL/SPEED LIMIT 20 sign assembly at the beginning of the school speed zone, which is typically 200 feet min. from the school crosswalk, or as established by an engineering study.
2. Use of a rear-facing flasher is optional for situations where side road traffic enters from within the designated school zone. See Std. Detail DET 4416 for more information on rear-facing flasher units.
3. Use END SCHOOL ZONE sign for zones that include FINES HIGHER signing. The END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT sign is to be used otherwise.
4. SPEED XX or SPEED LIMIT XX sign may instead be installed at the same location as, and on the same support with, the END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT sign.
1. Use only at established School Crossings, if Engineering Study determines need for signs.
SCHOOL SIGNING
SCHOOL BUILDING AWAY FROM HIGHWAY
OR SCHOOL GROUNDS FENCED
(OPTIONAL)

Oregon Department of Transportation
Approved By: S.T.E. Date: 05/2004 Updated: 05/2012

September 2018
1. School Crossing Assembly shall not be used at approaches controlled by STOP.
Note: For further guidance and recommendations on the location and use of School Advance Warning Assemblies and School Speed Limit Assemblies, consult ODOT Traffic Engineering publication "A Guide to School Area Safety".
The SCHOOL BUS TURN AROUND sign may be used to warn motorists that school buses may be turning around and re-entering the roadway.

For state highways use MUTCD sign S3-2.

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Approved By: S.T.E.  Date: 01/2000  Updated: 02/2016
The SCHOOL DAYS with Time of Day sign may be posted as part of a School Speed Assembly (with SCHOOL + SPEED [LIMIT] 20 signs) in specific school zones in accordance with ORS 811.111. The use of the SCHOOL DAYS with Time of Day sign is limited to school zones on highways adjacent to school grounds (see Condition "A" on page 7-3).

The School Speed Assembly shall be located at the beginning of the designated school speed zone, based on an engineering investigation and according to the layouts shown on pages 7-5 through 7-7.

The special size sign shall be used only with Region Traffic Manager approval.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Approved By: S.T.E. Date: 05/2004 Updated: 04/2006
The SCHOOL IN SESSION sign shall only be used in a school zone not marked by flashing beacons according to ORS 810.438.

The SCHOOL IN SESSION sign shall be installed as a supplemental sign below the TRAFFIC LAWS PHOTO ENFORCED sign (R10-18).

The SCHOOL IN SESSION supplemental sign shall be a minimum of 2 feet above the ground.
Sign Background: White, Standard Retroreflective Sheeting
Fluorescent Yellow-Green, Standard Retroreflective Sheeting (School Panel)

Sign Legend: Black, Non-reflective Sheeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGN</th>
<th>DIMENSIONS (INCHES)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>STD.</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEC.</td>
<td>48</td>
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Note: This sign must be accompanied by one of the following riders as appropriate: WHEN FLASHING, WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT, or SCHOOL DAYS/7 AM - 5PM.

Note: In lieu of 3 separate signs or an all-in-one School Speed Assembly, this SCHOOL/SPEED 20 combination sign may be used with a supplemental plaque to inform motorists of the speed limit in a designated school speed zone. This sign MUST be accompanied by the appropriate plaque for the school speed zone in which it is placed, in accordance with ORS 811.111 (refer to page 7-3).

The SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT 20 sign with supplemental plaque shall be located at the beginning of the designated school speed zone, based on an engineering investigation and according to the layouts shown on pages 7-5 through 7-7.

The special size sign shall be used only with Region Traffic Manager approval.