



Appleton Police Department

Department of Public Works



Dear Parents and Students:

Provided here is a variety of traffic and pedestrian safety information for your elementary school. The information discusses safe walking routes, school zones, and parking restrictions for the area in and around the school. These materials are provided in effort help all enjoy a safe and accident-free school year.

Specific laws for pedestrians and vehicles are detailed in the Wisconsin State Statutes, Chapter 346, Rules of the Road.

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/stat0346.pdf>

Safe Walking Route Maps

The *Safe Walking Route Maps* are produced by the City of Appleton Department of Public Works and are available on the City's website. Go to:

<http://www.appleton.org/government/public-works/traffic-engineering/safe-routes-to-school-srts>

These routes establish the most ideal path for elementary children to use going to school and back home. These routes were selected considering a balance of both safety and convenience. *Keep in mind the safest route may not be the most convenient.* Key features we look for when identifying routes are adequate sidewalks or paths, intersection control (i.e. yields, stops, and traffic signals) and crossing guard locations. We encourage parents and guardians to review their map and talk to their children about acceptable routes to use. If a certain crossing seems too challenging, or conflict with the mapped routes, we ask you physically assist the children at that crossing or provide education on how to cross that location successfully.

For additional information on how to create safe, convenient and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools, contact your local Regional Planning Commission. Go to:

<http://eastcentralsrts.org/>

Safety Tips

There are several safety tips that motorists, student pedestrians and bicyclists should keep in mind when going to and from school. They are as follows:

PEDESTRIAN RULES

Choose the safest route to and from school using the school's *Safe Walking Route Map*. Where there is no sidewalk and it is necessary to walk in the roadway, state law requires that pedestrians always walk on the side of the street facing traffic. See the following link for additional info for parents and children:

<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/education-tip-sheets>

Some other points to consider are:

- Cross streets ONLY at marked or unmarked crosswalks.



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- ***Do not*** cross the street between parked cars.
- Make eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you.
- Watch for turning vehicles, and WALK, don't run, when crossing the street.
- At roundabouts, cross at marked or unmarked crosswalks
- At traffic signals, cross at marked crosswalks and use the WALK signal.
- ALWAYS obey all police officers, adult crossing guards, and school safety patrols.

BICYCLE RULES

The following are basic rules of the road that every bicycle rider should know and obey:

- Ride on the right side of the road and close to the edge of the pavement, in the same direction of flow as the traffic.
- Obey all stop signs, yield signs, and traffic signals.
- Signal all turns and stops using the proper hand signals.
- Ride single file and pass parked or moving cars with care.
- Walk your bicycle at busy intersections and corners; if you are turning left, use the pedestrian crosswalk.
- Let pedestrians go first at crossings and on sidewalk.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING RULES

Traffic and parking rules around schools are created and enforced for the safety of the students. Each year, the Appleton Police Department and Traffic Section receive calls related to unsafe driving in school zones. Unfortunately, the majority of violators are parents who are picking up or dropping off their children at the school. Some of the issues include:

- Illegal parking or stopping
- Failure to obey the Crossing Guard
- Failure to yield to children in the crosswalk
- Speeding in the school zone

The following is a listing of the types of parking restrictions drivers are likely to encounter in school areas, a brief description of their meanings, and the associated fines for violators.

- **No Stopping, Standing or Parking:** These areas may not be used as drop off zones. Vehicles cannot stop in this area -- even momentarily -- to drop off or pick up passengers. This area is off limits to vehicles during the posted times. This is the most frequently violated sign; please obey this sign. Violators are subject to a \$40 parking citation (subject to change) or, in some cases, a traffic citation.
- **No Parking 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on School Days:** These designated areas may be used to drop off or pick up students *if the driver does not leave the vehicle*. If the operator occupies the vehicle you may stop and wait for your children to be picked up. Vehicles parked without a driver are subject to a \$20 parking fine (subject to change).
- **5-minute loading zone (or other time parameter):** In these designated areas, you can leave your vehicle unoccupied in this area for the designated time. This area is intended for



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the loading and unloading of persons and/or property. Violators are subject to a \$20 fine (subject to change).

- **Statutory Parking Restrictions:** Vehicles parked within four feet of a driveway, 10 feet of a fire hydrant, or 15 feet of a marked or unmarked crosswalk are subject to a \$20 fine (subject to change). Since these types of restrictions are statutory and considered “Rules of the Road”, all licensed drivers are obligated to abide by them, whether marked or unmarked by signage or curb markings.
- **Unrestricted Parking:** May be used for dropping off & picking up students or for parking

Additional issues to be aware of:

Stopping in an intersection is not legal (this includes the “top” of “T” intersections). This area is off-limits to stopped vehicles. Please do not drop off your child in the street. This violation can result in a traffic citation.

Double-parking (or stopping) of vehicles is not legal. You may not stop your vehicle on the roadway side of any parked vehicle. This violation can also result in a traffic citation.

Over the last several years there have been a number incidents of children struck, or barely missed, by vehicles in and around school zones. As a result, we will be aggressively enforcing parking, traffic, bicycle and pedestrian violations in and around the school zones.

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

The intent of the student Safety Patrol is to control the movement of children at designated crossings near the School. The Safety Patrol will only be stopping children, not vehicles. The Safety Patrols are restricted to the curb when controlling the pedestrian movement. The only control device they will be utilizing is a Safety Patrol staff with an attached flag. The safety of all the children in the school zone is our main priority. The job of controlling traffic (vehicles) is the responsibility of the Appleton Police Department Adult Crossing Guards. The Crossing Guards are employees of the Police Department, with statutory authority to stop vehicles.

Let’s work together and keep our school zones a safe place. Please do your part by driving safely, with courtesy and respect for everyone in the school zones.

I hope you find the above information, enclosures and links useful.

Yours in Safety,

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