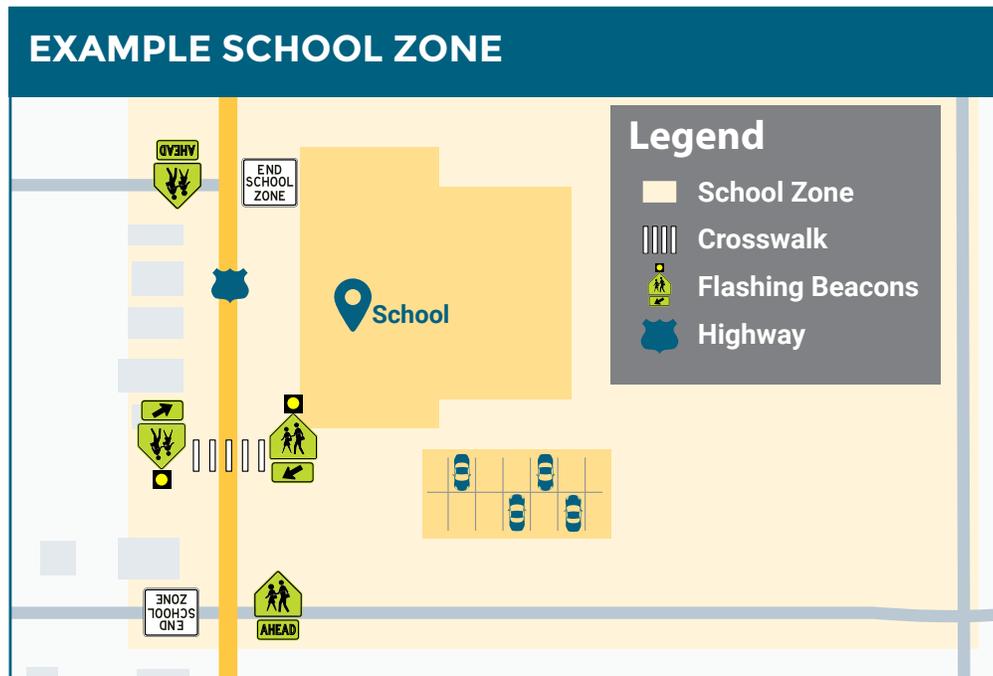


School Zones

A school zone is a designated area that generally includes the streets and sidewalks immediately surrounding a school that provides enhanced safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists. In Nebraska, school zone safety measures, including reduced speed limits, are usually only in effect before or after school on weekdays or when flashing beacons are activated as students are crossing the road.



What traffic control measures are used in school zones?

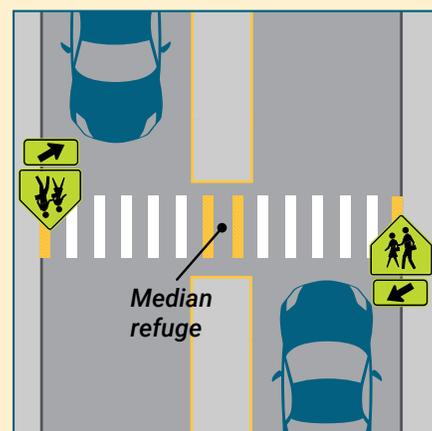
The Nebraska Department of Transportation and other agencies and communities use a variety of traffic control measures to keep pedestrians and bicyclists safe before and after school. Designated school zones might include the following:

- Reduced speed limits
- Enhanced traffic control devices to emphasize the presence of pedestrians in school zones
- Crosswalks to indicate where pedestrians should cross and where drivers should expect pedestrians to cross
- Additional sidewalks or multi-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Designated drop off and pick up zones
- Other traffic calming devices, such as a median refuge island
- Parking restrictions

In Nebraska, if drivers do not adhere to speed limits in school zones, fines are doubled.

MEDIAN REFUGE ISLAND

Median refuge islands are placed at a midblock location in an intersection to provide a refuge area to help protect pedestrians crossing a road. Median refuge islands can enhance safety by providing a place for pedestrians to wait for a gap in traffic when crossing.



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SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE

In a school zone, you may see a variety of signs that alert drivers to the increased presence of pedestrians and bicyclists.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

School buses are used to transport children to and from school and is one of the safest forms of transportation. Always follow the law when driving but be especially aware around school buses as children may be nearby.

- Yellow flashing lights mean that the bus is going to stop and drivers should prepare to slow down.
- Red flashing lights mean that the bus is stopped and people are entering or exiting the bus.

If you see red lights and the stop signal arm extended on a school bus, all drivers (front and rear) must come to a complete stop until the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop signal arm is retracted, and the school bus resumes motion. On a divided highway, only drivers traveling in the same direction as the school bus need to come to a complete stop.



Benefits

Safety. The primary benefit of school zones is increased safety:

- Traffic control measures used in school zones alert drivers to increased pedestrian or bicycle traffic.
- Additional crosswalks, sidewalks and multi-use paths help control pedestrian and bicycle movement, reducing the risk of crashes.
- Reduced speed limits in school zones mean that if a vehicle-pedestrian or vehicle-bicycle crash occurs, the potential severity of the crash may be reduced.

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