

BE ALERT, DON'T GET HURT!

Crossing guards protect our kids. Let's protect them. Crossing guards play an important role in making sure children travel to and from school safely in communities across Chicago every day. With their help, students develop safe pedestrian and bicycling habits, such as looking both ways before crossing roads, navigating busy intersections and using crosswalks.

USE CAUTION WHEN DRIVING NEAR SCHOOLS

Check Crosswalks When Turning.

- Don't just look for oncoming traffic– check for people walking

Stop for people in crosswalks.

- State law: Drivers MUST STOP for people walking at crosswalks
- At EVERY crosswalk, not just signalized intersections

Slow down.

- Slower is safer – driver speed is the most important determinant of crash severity.
- School zones have lower speed limits – Keep to 20MPH in around schools.
- Allow enough time for pick-up and drop-off. When you're running late, you're running a risk. Rushing is dangerous.

Just drive.

- Talking on a cell phone while driving – even hands free! - has the same level of impairment as a blood alcohol level of .08 (National Safety Council).
- Texting while driving slows reaction time even more than alcohol impairment.

Never maneuver around stopped traffic in a school zone.

- Double parking around school zones decreases safety for everyone. Check with your school about pick-up and drop-off policies.



Be aware of crossing guards.

- Crossing guards wear brightly colored and highly reflective clothing while on duty so that they are visible in traffic and during inclement weather.
- Crossing guards use hand-held stop signs while walking out in the street to alert drivers that children and pedestrians of all ages are crossing.



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