



TRAFFIC ALERT



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School's Open Drive Carefully

The new school year is beginning and officers should give special attention to areas where children travel to and from school. Crossing guards and student patrol persons are only stationed at intersections where there is a higher volume of students crossing. Many times, students must cross several streets before arriving at a location where there are crossing guards. **Officers are reminded to travel through these areas during the peak times when children are walking to and from school.**

Child Safety Facts

According to **Child Safety Facts 2007** a *Safe Ride News Publication*, many parents think that young children can cross streets long before they are ready. Safety experts say most children are able to make good judgments in traffic at age 10; however, there is no magic age when a child is ready. Most often children are hit by vehicles near their homes in the afternoon. They are also hit at bus stops by cars passing the school bus illegally.

Chicago, because of its extensive school system has a large contingent of school buses traveling our streets. It is for this reason that beat personnel are urged to pay special attention to pedestrian and vehicular traffic around school buses.

School buses transporting children must stop at all railroad crossings (reference IVC 625 ILCS 5/11 – 1202). Drivers must signal their intentions with flashing red lights and extended signal arms when loading or discharging children (reference IVC 625 ILCS 5/11 – 1414 (b)). In addition, vehicles in traffic shall not overtake or pass any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging children. Drivers may proceed when the school bus resumes motion, when directed by the bus driver, or when the signals are no longer activated, (reference IVC 625 ILCS 5/11 – 1414 (a)).

Additional child safety information can be obtained at www.saferideneews.com.

Illinois Pedestrian Rules of the Road

Often overlooked, walking is the most common, healthy and affordable way to get around.

Both the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago have enacted laws/ordinances to provide for the safety of pedestrians crossing the street at crosswalks.

- Pedestrians right-of-way at crosswalks 625 ILCS 5/11-1002
- Pedestrians in roadway to have right-of-way when. MCC 9-24-050

At Intersections with Pedestrian Signals

Busy streets often have timed crossing signals to indicate when pedestrians have the right-of-way. In these situations, pedestrians should only cross when they see the “walk” sign.

At Intersections without Pedestrian Signals

Drivers must yield right-of-way to pedestrians when:

- The driver is at a stop sign or flashing red light and the pedestrian is on the driver's half of the street.
- The driver is turning left or right with a red or a green light.
- The pedestrian enters the street before the driver's light changes to green.
- A pedestrian enters a crosswalk not controlled by signals in the half of the roadway upon which a vehicle is travelling or is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

At Mid-Block Crosswalks

Drivers must yield to pedestrians crossing at marked mid-block crosswalks, even when there is no other traffic control signal present.

Driver Responsibilities

- Exercise "due care" to avoid hitting pedestrians, regardless of right-of-way.
- Do not pass another vehicle that has stopped to let a pedestrian cross.
- When exiting driveways and alleys, approach sidewalk-crossings slowly and yield to pedestrians.
- Park Responsibly. Do not park on the sidewalk, blocking crosswalks or curb ramps.

Pedestrian Responsibilities

- Do **not** dart suddenly into traffic. Give vehicles a reasonable time to respond.
- When crossing at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or at any marked crosswalk at an intersection yield right-of-way to vehicles.
- Do **not** cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices.
- Do **not** cross at any place other than a marked crosswalk between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation.
- Do **not** enter roadway when facing a steady circular red traffic signal.

The law in Illinois is clear

- Drivers must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Drivers may not overtake other drivers stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- Turning vehicles must yield to pedestrians crossing who have begun crossing during the Walk signal.

Driver Offenses

- Failure to yield at an uncontrolled crosswalk.
- Overtaking a vehicle that has yielded to pedestrian.
- Failure to yield to a pedestrian. Vehicle turning facing a green signal.
- Failure to yield. Vehicle turning right on red.
- Pedestrians in roadway to have right-of-way
- Crosswalks—Pedestrians to have right-of-way

Reference Section

IVC 625 ILCS 5/11-1002(a)
IVC 625 ILCS 5/11-1002(d)
IVC 625 ILCS 5/11-306(a)(1)
IVC 625 ILCS 5/11-306(c)(3)
MCC 9-24-050
MCC 9-24-030

Be Safe

Be Courteous

Be Professional