

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL SERIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #8

Why Isn't There a "School Bus Stop Ahead" Sign Everywhere a Bus Stops?

Parents sometimes request the installation of "School Bus Stop Ahead" signs at their children's bus stop. While the safety of children is very important, placing a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign is not necessarily the best solution to make children safer. In fact, misusing or overusing these signs can sometimes lead to the signs being misinterpreted or ignored. Here's why:

When warning signs are overused, they are sometimes ignored

If a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign were used at every school bus stop, the sheer number of these signs on the roadway might lead drivers to begin ignoring these signs or to miss other important signs.

Warning signs are effective when they warn of unexpected hazards

The purpose of the "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign is to warn drivers of unexpected hazards, such as a stopped bus around a curve or over a hill. The sign is helpful in advance of a school bus stop if the bus, its flashing lights, or its passengers are not visible to drivers for an adequate sight distance. However, most school bus stops are located in places where drivers can clearly see the stopped bus, rendering a sign unnecessary. Before a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign is installed, alternate locations should be considered for bus stops where sight distance may be a problem.

With or without "School Bus Stop Ahead" signs, education can be important

Even at school bus stops where a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign has been installed, parents and children should not be lulled into a false sense of security. Children should keep in mind that they must be careful when crossing the street and that drivers may not necessarily be watching out for them.

For more information

For more information, please contact _____.