

# SCHOOL ZONE BACKGROUND

A School Zone is a section of roadway with a reduced speed limit of 20 MPH for the intended purpose of protecting school children along roadways bordering a school and at designated school crosswalks.

School Zone Safety is very important to the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. Every effort is made to make school zones safe by providing proper engineering practices, continued law enforcement and proper guidance to children and parents. This provides a brief summary of standards and procedures pertaining to school zone safety within Chelan County.

## SIGNS WITHIN SCHOOL ZONES

### School Advance Warning Sign:



Placed: in advance of School Crosswalk Warning Sign and School Speed Limit Sign to warn drivers that they are entering a school zone.



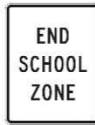
### School Speed Limit Sign:

Marks the beginning of the School Zone and is in effect per either the "When Children Are Present" or "When Flashing" designation.



### School Crosswalk Warning Sign:

Placed adjacent to a designated School Crosswalk. Drivers should be prepared to stop for all pedestrians.



### End School Zone Sign:

Placed to designate the end of the school zone and at this point the speed limit returns to that designated speed for the street during typical hours.

## TYPES OF SCHOOL ZONES

There are two types of school zones:

### Reduced Speed School Zone:

A Reduced Speed School Zone establishes a speed limit of 20 MPH on a roadway bordered by a school. Per WAC 468-95-330, this zone can extend up to 300 feet from the school property boundary. The established Reduced Speed School Zone boundaries are designated with School Speed Limit Sign and End School Zone signs. School Crosswalk Zones are often also contained within this type of school zone.

### School Crosswalk Zone:

A School Crosswalk Zone is a special pedestrian crosswalk that has been designated as a Safe Route to School with the intention of protecting school children. A speed limit of 20 MPH is designated within 300 feet on either side of the crosswalk with the School Speed Limit Sign and End School Zone signs. Additionally, School Advance Warning Sign and School Crosswalk Warning Sign signs are placed to inform drivers of the location of the school crosswalk.

## WHEN IS A SCHOOL ZONE ACTIVE?

There are two methods employed within Chelan County to designate the times in which a School Zone speed limit of 20 MPH is in effect.

### When Children Are Present:



Per Washington State Law, when a school zone is marked with a supplemental sign under the "School Speed Limit 20" sign reading "When Children Are Present" the school speed limit of 20 MPH is in effect during the following conditions:

- 1.) School Children are occupying or walking within the marked crosswalk.
- 2.) School children are waiting at the curb or on the shoulder of the roadway and are about to cross the roadway by way of the marked crosswalk.
- 3.) School children are present or walking along the roadway, either on the adjacent sidewalk or, in the absence of sidewalks, on the shoulder within the posted school speed limit zone.

### When Flashing:



The School Zone speed limit of 20 MPH is only in effect during the time in which the flashers are operational.