

Phoenix Driver and Student Safety information form

Every day parents drop off children in the morning, and pick them up in the afternoon. The common denominator in each is to get them to and from school in a timely and safe manner. It goes without saying that with cooperation from everyone the process should go smoothly.

So far this has been the case; however there has been a steady increase in the number of drivers who operate in a manner that raises the potential for something unfortunate to happen. It is for this reason that we are putting out this Driver and Student Safety information form in the hopes of raising driver awareness of the State of Arizona Traffic laws that apply in and around schools.



(A): No Passing/Speed Limit (B): Stop for Pedestrian in School Crosswalk

Sign “A” and “B” above are just two of many signs that drivers see while in the Sierra School Zone. Below is a listing of several Arizona Traffic Laws that apply in and around the school:

1. Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) 28-797E – SPEED IN EXCESS OF 15MPH: “A vehicle approaching the crosswalk shall not proceed at a speed of more than fifteen miles per hour between the portable signs placed on the highway indicating “school in session” and “stop when children are in crosswalk””. **Approximate fine \$196.**
2. ARS 28-797G – STOP FOR PED IN SCHOOL CROSSWALK: “When a school authority places and maintains the required portable “school in session” signs and “stop when children are in crosswalk” signs, all vehicles shall come to a complete stop at the school crossing when the crosswalk is occupied by a person”. **Approximate fine \$196.** (Editors note: refer to signs “A” and “B”)

Additional note for 1 and 2 above: The civil penalty for failing to slow down in or stop at a school zone is doubled if portable signs reading “school in session” or “stop when children are in crosswalk” had been erected at the time of the offense. ARS 28-797H.

3. ARS 28-644A1 – PASSING VEHICLE IN SCHOOL ZONE: “Obedience to and required traffic control devices. (A) Unless otherwise directed by a traffic or police officer...the driver of a vehicle shall: (1) Obey the instructions of an official traffic control device applicable to the driver that is placed in accordance with this chapter”. **Approximate fine \$132.** (Editors note: This refers to sign “A”

no passing. When properly posted, as it is each day at Sierra, a driver is not permitted to pass any other vehicle. This occurs when cars are lined up north and southbound on 12th Street or, east or westbound on Liberty lane for pickup and drop off and other cars pass them with the signs in place.)

4. ARS 28-751.1 and 28-751.2 – IMPROPER POSITION RIGHT TURN AND IMPROPER POSITION LEFT TURN: “The driver of a vehicle intending to turn shall do so as follows: (1) Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. (2) Left turns. The driver of a vehicle intending to turn left shall approach the turn in the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of the vehicle. If practicable the driver shall make the left turn from the left of the center of the intersection and shall make the turn to the left lane immediately available for the driver’s direction of traffic”. ***Approximate fine \$132.*** (Editors note: At Sierra this occurs when cars are lined up north and southbound on 12th Street for pickup or drop off. For example, a southbound vehicle on 12th Street will make a right turn from the center lane into the school parking lot in front of vehicles lined up in the right-hand lane, or a northbound vehicle on 12th Street will make a left turn into the parking lot from the far right curb lane in front of vehicles lined up in the left-hand turn lane.)

5. ARS 28-701.02A1 – EXCEED 35 MPH /SCHOOL ZONE: “(A) A person shall not: (1) Exceed thirty-five miles per hour approaching a school crossing”. ***A person who violates subsection A of this section is guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor.*** (Editors note: This is a criminal violation with the possibility of up to 30 days in jail and/or up to \$500 fine).

The Phoenix Police Traffic Enforcement and Safety Unit (TESU) have primary responsibility of ensuring drivers follow traffic laws in and around Phoenix Schools. From time to time you will see enforcement teams around the school both educating and citing drivers.

The goal of this information sheet is to remind drivers of the laws that exist in and around schools in the hopes of reducing the number of violations that occur. Tickets can be frustrating and costly, not nearly as much as an accident, or worse yet an injury to a student. Plan ahead when you are coming to the school. Leave 5 minutes earlier to get to the school so that the “rush factor” is lessened. Above all, remember that all drivers have the same responsibility in keeping students safe.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Phoenix Police Traffic Complaint Hotline at 602-534-7733.