

Crossing Guard Best Practices

The Role of the Crossing Guard

- Serve as a positive adult role model to children
- Teach children safe crossing procedures
- Discourage children from behaving unsafely near traffic
- Use existing gaps in traffic to help children cross safely
- Alert motorists that pedestrians are in the process of using the school crossing
- Observe and report any incidents or conditions that present a potential safety hazard to the children or guard

Procedures for Crossing an Unsignalized Crosswalk

1. Wait for a gap in traffic on the guard's side of the street.
2. Face the closest oncoming traffic and make eye contact with the approaching drivers.
3. Walk to the center of street with the STOP paddle held high.
4. Where there are more than two lanes, enter the street and alert the traffic one lane at a time.
5. Face opposite approaching traffic and make eye contact with those drivers.
6. Stand on the crosswalk line close to the center of the street and make sure that all traffic has stopped, including any turning vehicles.
7. Face the intersection.
8. Verbally instruct the children to cross and tell them to look left-right-left while crossing and proceed across the street within the marked crosswalk.
9. Do not allow any cars to cross the crosswalk until all the students have crossed.
10. Remain in the center of the street until the last child reaches the opposite side of the street.
11. Walk to the curb or edge of the street with the STOP paddle and/or stop-arm held high the entire way. When back at the curb or edge of the street, lower hand(s) and allow traffic to flow again.
12. Remain near the curb or edge of the street for the next group of children to assemble.

Procedures for Crossing a Signalized Crosswalk

1. Enter the street only with a WALK signal, and the STOP paddle or stop-arm held high. Stand on the crosswalk line closest to the intersection.
2. Face oncoming traffic and make eye contact with drivers who are attempting to turn.
3. Verbally instruct the students to begin their search (left, right, left and over their shoulders, for turning traffic) and cross when safe.
4. Tell the students to continue walking if the signal changes to flashing "DON'T WALK", but do not allow children to start crossing at this time. Help students learn that a flashing "DON'T WALK" signal means Don't Start.
5. Wait for children to reach the opposite side of the street.
6. Return to the curb or edge of the street with your STOP paddle or stop-arm held high. After reaching the curb or edge of the street, a guard can lower his or her hand(s) and allow traffic to flow again.

When an Emergency Arises

In the case of an emergency, a guard must stay at his or her post, keep control of the situation, and use the following basic procedures to ensure the children's safety:

1. Stop crossing the children.
2. Group the children away from the street to maintain control.
3. Remain at the assigned post with the children.
4. Ask several people to call 911.
5. Do not move the victim, unless the victim is in serious and immediate danger of being struck by another vehicle.
6. Use a vehicle to block the crash victim from traffic, if necessary. The vehicle should be positioned a distance away from the victim to provide protection from other vehicles but, if struck, would not endanger the victim or rescue workers.
7. Always notify the supervisor as soon as possible of any emergency that occurred.

Keep children a safe distance away from the crossing until emergency vehicles have passed.