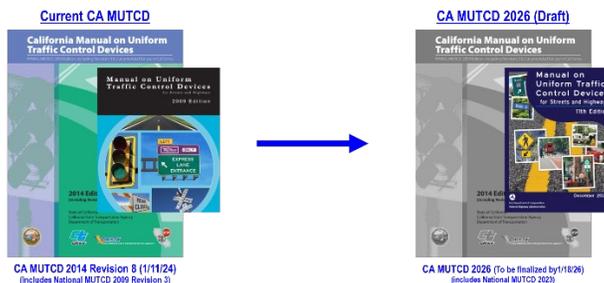


California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 Compare (Draft)



The National MUTCD 2023 is published by Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F. On December 19, 2023, a Final Rule adopting the National MUTCD 2023 was published in the Federal Register with an effective date of January 18, 2024. States must adopt the National MUTCD as their legal State standard for traffic control devices within two years from the effective date.

Caltrans has begun to prepare the initial draft version of CA MUTCD 2026 to revise California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 (current) to be in substantial conformance with FHWA's National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition). Initial draft chapters of CA MUTCD 2026, as they are completed, are being posted on the webpage and open to public for review and providing comments.

This "Compare" document has been prepared by Caltrans to share the outcome (in CA MUTCD 2026) of California specific additions (shown in blue color text and blue margin lines) and California specific revisions (shown as black strikethrough text and blue margin line) that are included in the current CA MUTCD (2014 Revision 8). This document identifies California specific contents that are incorporated into CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft version and contents that are not incorporated and provides brief explanation, if they aren't incorporated. This document is being provided for ease in comparison, when reviewing CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft.

Though every effort has been made by Caltrans to ensure accuracy of this document, the inherent variances between National MUTCD and California MUTCD, along with moving of contents and reorganization undertaken by FHWA in the National MUTCD 2023, there may be unintentional errors or omissions in this document or some contents may have been overlooked.

Reference documents and information related to California's National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts is available at the following websites:

- National MUTCD 2023 - <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 - <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>
- National MUTCD 2023 review (including CA MUTCD 2026 Drafts) - <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd/nmutcd>

Text changes reflected in CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft version, when compared to current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8, are provided as follows:

- **Unedited black text** - The unedited National MUTCD text is shown in "Times New Roman" font and black color. This black text shown without the strikethrough, represents National MUTCD text that is adopted in California as-is, without any revisions. FHWA has provided compare documents for any changes to this text, comparing the National MUTCD 2009 and 2023 editions. They are available separately, and not included in this compare document.
- **Strikethrough black text** - Text portions of the National MUTCD content that are not applicable in California are showing with a strikethrough of the black text and a blue margin line on the right side. This compare document includes identification of these changes.
- **Blue text** - The California text additions, including new paragraphs, and enhancements are incorporated into the combined document at appropriate locations and show in "Arial Narrow" font and blue font color with a blue margin line on the right side. This compare document includes identification of these changes

This "compare" document uses the current California MUTCD (2014 Revision 8) and uses color highlights for only California specific text revisions (black strikethrough text) and California added text (blue text), to indicate their disposition in CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft version. Comments are provided only for text that has been revised before it is incorporated or text that has been deleted and not incorporated into this CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft version. Meaning of the highlighting colors used are as follows:

- **Bright Green** – Incorporated as-is, no change in policy
- **Turquoise** – Incorporated with revisions, may or may not be a change in policy
- **Pink** – Deleted and not incorporated, potential change in policy.

CHAPTER 7B. SIGNS

Section 7B.01 Size of School Signs

Standard:

- 01 Except as provided in Section 2A.11, the sizes of signs and plaques to be used on conventional roadways in school areas shall be as shown in Table 7B-1 and 7B-1(CA).
- 02 The sizes in the Conventional Road column shall be used unless engineering judgment determines that a minimum or oversized sign size would be more appropriate.
- 03 The sizes in the Minimum column shall be used only where traffic volumes are low and speeds are 30-25 mph or lower, as determined by engineering judgment.
- 04 The sizes in the Oversized column shall be used on expressways.

Guidance:

- 05 The sizes in the Oversized column should be used on roadways that have four or more lanes with posted speed limits of 40 mph or higher.

Option:

- 06 The sizes in the Oversized column may also be used at other locations that require increased emphasis, improved recognition, or increased legibility.
- 07 Signs and plaques larger than those shown in Table 7B-1 may be used (see Section 2A.11).

Standard:

- 08 The standard sign dimensions prescribed in this California MUTCD, FHWA's "Standard Highway Signs and Markings" book and Caltrans' California Sign Specifications shall be used unless engineering judgment determines that other sizes are appropriate. Where engineering judgment determines that sizes smaller than the standard dimensions are appropriate for use, the sign dimensions shall not be less than the minimum dimensions specified in this California MUTCD, "Standard Highway Signs and Markings" book or Caltrans' California Sign Specifications. See Section 1A.11 for information regarding these publications.

Section 7B.02 Illumination and ReflectORIZATION

Standard:

- 01 The signs used for school area traffic control shall be retroreflectorized or illuminated.

Section 7B.03 Position of Signs

Support:

- 01 Sections 2A.16 and 2A.17 contain provisions regarding the placements and locations of signs.
- 02 Section 2A.19 contains provisions regarding the lateral offsets of signs.
- 02a Examples of location of school area signs and California School Assemblies for typical installations are shown in Figures 7B-1(CA), 7B-4, 7B-5 and 7B-5(CA).

Option:

- 03 In-roadway signs for school traffic control areas may be used consistent with the requirements of Sections 2B.12, ~~7B-08~~, 7B.11 and 7B.12.

Section 7B.04 Height of Signs

Support:

- 01 Section 2A.18 contains provisions regarding the mounting height of signs.

Section 7B.05 Installation of Signs

Support:

- 01 Section 2A.16 contains provisions regarding the installation of signs.
- 02 Examples of school area signing, markings, flashing beacons and overhead school signs are shown in Figures 7B-1(CA), 7B-5(CA), 7B-4 through 7B-6 and Figures 7B-101(CA) through 7B-104(CA).

Section 7B.06 Lettering

Support:

01 The "Standard Highway Signs and Markings" book (see Section 1A.11) contains information regarding sign lettering.

Section 7B.07 Sign Color for School Warning Signs

Standard:

01 School warning signs, including the "SCHOOL" portion of the School Speed Limit (S5-1) sign and including any supplemental plaques used in association with these warning signs, shall have a fluorescent yellow-green background with a black legend and border unless otherwise provided in this Manual for a specific sign.

Section 7B.08 School Advance Warning Assembly (S1-1 with Supplemental Plaque)

Support:

01 Many state and local jurisdictions find it beneficial to advise road users that they are approaching a school that is adjacent to a highway, where additional care is needed, even though no school crossing is involved and the speed limit remains unchanged. Additionally, some jurisdictions designate school zones that have a unique legal standing in that fines for speeding or other traffic violations within designated school zones are increased or special enforcement techniques such as photo radar systems are used. It is important and sometimes legally necessary to mark the beginning and end points of these designated school zones so that the road user is given proper notice.

02 The School (S1-1) sign (see Figure 7B-1 or 7B-1(CA)) has the following four applications:

- A. School Area – the S1-1 sign can be used to warn road users that they are approaching a school area that might include school buildings or grounds, a school crossing, or school related activity adjacent to the highway.
- B. School Zone – the S1-1 sign can be used to identify the location of the beginning of a designated school zone (see Section 7B.09).
- C. School Advance Crossing – if combined with an AHEAD (W16-9P) plaque or an XX FEET (W16-2P or W16-2aP) plaque to comprise the School Advance Crossing assembly, the S1-1 sign can be used to warn road users that they are approaching a crossing where schoolchildren cross the roadway (see Section 7B.11).
- D. School Crossing – if combined with a diagonal downward pointing arrow (W16-7P) plaque to comprise the School Crossing assembly, the S1-1 sign can be used to warn approaching road users of the location of a crossing where schoolchildren cross the roadway (see Section 7B.12).

02a The School Assemblies A(CA) through E(CA) are shown in Figure 7B-1(CA) and Table 7B-1(CA).

Option:

03 If a school area is located on a cross street in close proximity to the intersection, a School (S1-1) sign with a supplemental arrow (W16-5P or W16-6P) plaque may be installed on each approach of the street or highway to warn road users making a turn onto the cross street that they will encounter a school area soon after making the turn.

Section 7B.09 School Zone Sign (S1-1) and Plaques (S4-3P, S4-7P) and END SCHOOL ZONE Sign (S5-2)

Standard:

01 If a school zone has been designated under State or local statute, a School (S1-1) sign (see Figure 7B-1 or 7B-1(CA)) shall be installed to identify the beginning point(s) of the designated school zone (see Figure 7B-2).

Option:

02 A School Zone (S1-1) sign may be supplemented with a SCHOOL (S4-3P) plaque (see Figure 7B-1 or 7B-1(CA)).

03 A School Zone (S1-1) sign may be supplemented with an ALL YEAR (S4-7P) plaque (see Figure 7B-1) if the school operates on a 12-month schedule.

04 The downstream end of a designated school zone may be identified with an END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign (see Figures 7B-1 and 7B-2).

05 If a school zone is located on a cross street in close proximity to the intersection, a School Zone (S1-1) sign with a supplemental arrow (W16-5P or W16-6P) plaque may be installed on each approach of the street or highway to warn road users making a turn onto the cross street that they will encounter a school zone soon after making the turn.

Standard:

06 The School Warning Assembly A(CA) shall be used on streets with prima facie 25 mph speed limits that are contiguous to a school building or school grounds.

07 The SCHOOL (S4-3P) plaque shall not be used alone.

Guidance:

08 If used, the School Warning Assembly A(CA) should be posted at the school boundary. Refer to CVC 22352.

Option:

09 If used, the School Warning Assembly A(CA) may be posted up to 500 feet in advance of the school boundary. Refer to CVC 22352.

Support:

10 The School Warning Assembly A(CA) does not need to be posted if there are no school pedestrians using the highway and the school grounds are separated from the highway by a fence, gate or other physical barrier. Refer to CVC 22352.

Section 7B.10 Higher Fines Zone Signs (R2-10, R2-11) and Plaques

Standard:

01 Where increased fines are imposed for traffic violations within a designated school zone, a BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign (see Figure 7B-1) or a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P), FINES DOUBLE (R2-6aP), or \$XX FINE (R2-6bP) plaque (see Figure 2B-3) shall be installed as a supplement to the School Zone (S1-1) sign to identify the beginning point of the higher fines zone (see Figures 7B-2 and 7B-3).

Option:

02 Where appropriate, one of the following plaques may be mounted below the sign that identifies the beginning point of the higher fines zone:

A. An S4-1P plaque (see Figure 7B-1) specifying the times that the higher fines are in effect,

B. A WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT (S4-2P) plaque (see Figure 7B-1), or

C. A WHEN FLASHING (S4-4P) plaque (see Figure 7B-1) if used in conjunction with a yellow flashing beacon.

Standard:

03 Where a BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign or a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P) plaque supplementing a School Zone (S1-1) sign is posted to notify road users of increased fines for traffic violations, an END HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-11) sign (see Figure 7B-1) or an END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign shall be installed at the downstream end of the zone to notify road users of the termination of the increased fines zone (see Figures 7B-2 and 7B-3).

Section 7B.11 School Advance Crossing Assembly

Standard:

01 The School Advance Crossing assembly (see Figure 7B-1 or 7B-1(CA)) shall consist of a School Advance warning Assembly D(CA), or a School (S1-1) sign supplemented with an AHEAD (W16-9P) plaque or an XX FEET (W16-2P or W16-2aP) plaque.

02 Except as provided in Paragraph 3, a School Advance Crossing assembly or Assembly D(CA) shall be used in advance (see Table 2C-4 for advance placement guidelines) of the first School Crossing assembly (see Section 7B.12) that is encountered in each direction as traffic approaches a school crosswalk (see Figure 7B-4).

Option:

03 The School Advance Crossing assembly **or Assembly D(CA)** may be omitted (see Figure 7B-5) where a School Zone (S1-1) sign (see Section 7B.09) is installed to identify the beginning of a school zone in advance of the School Crossing assembly.

04 If a school crosswalk is located on a cross street in close proximity to an intersection, a School Advance Crossing assembly with a supplemental arrow (W16-5P or W16-6P) plaque may be installed on each approach of the street or highway to warn road users making a turn onto the cross street that they will encounter a school crosswalk soon after making the turn.

05 A 12-inch reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign (see Figure 7B-6), installed in compliance with the mounting height and special mounting support requirements for In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6 ~~or R1-6a~~) signs (see Section 2B.12), may be used in advance of a school crossing to supplement the post-mounted school warning signs. A 12 x 6-inch reduced size AHEAD (W16-9P) plaque may be mounted below the reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign.

Standard:

06 **The School Advance Warning Assembly D(CA) shall be used in advance of any School Crosswalk Warning Assembly B(CA), School Crosswalk Warning Assembly E(CA) or the School Speed Limit Assembly C(CA).**

Section 7B.12 School Crossing Assembly

Standard:

01 **If used, the School Crossing assembly **Assembly B(CA)** (see Figure 7B-1 **or 7B-1(CA)**) shall be installed at the school crossing (see Figures 7B-4 and 7B-5), or as close to it as possible, and shall consist of a School (S1-1) sign supplemented with a diagonal downward pointing arrow (W16-7P) plaque to show the location of the crossing.**

02 **The School Crossing assembly **Assembly B(CA) or E(CA)** shall not be used at crossings other than those adjacent to schools and those on established school pedestrian routes.**

03 **The School Crossing assembly **Assembly B(CA) or E(CA)** shall not be installed on approaches controlled by a STOP (R1-1) sign, a ~~or~~ YIELD (R1-2) sign or a traffic signal.**

Standard:

03a **The School Crosswalk Warning Assembly B(CA) or E(CA) shall be posted at all yellow school crosswalks that are not controlled by a STOP (R1-1) sign, a YIELD (R1-2) sign or a traffic signal.**

Guidance:

03b *The School Crosswalk Warning Assembly B(CA) or E(CA) should be posted at all white school crosswalks that are not controlled by a STOP (R1-1) sign, a YIELD (R1-2) sign or a traffic signal.*

Support:

03c **The School Crosswalk Warning Assemblies B(CA) and E(CA) are shown in Figure 7B-1(CA) and 7B-101(CA) through 7B-104(CA).**

Option:

04 The In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6 ~~or R1-6a~~) sign (see Section 2B.12 and Figure 7B-6) or the In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing (R1-6b ~~or R1-6e~~) sign (see Figure 7B-6) may be used at unsignalized school crossings. If used at a school crossing, a 12 x 4-inch SCHOOL (S4-3P) plaque (see Figure 7B-6) may be mounted above the sign. The STATE LAW legend on the R1-6 series signs may be omitted.

05 The Overhead Pedestrian Crossing (R1-9 ~~or R1-9a~~) sign (see Section 2B.12 and Figure 2B-2) may be modified to replace the standard pedestrian symbol with the standard schoolchildren symbol and may be used at unsignalized school crossings. The STATE LAW legend on the R1-9 series signs may be omitted.

Standard:

05a **If used, the School Crosswalk Warning Assembly E(CA) (see Figures 7B-1(CA) and 7B-101(CA) through 7B-104(CA)) shall be installed in an overhead location at the marked crosswalk, or as close to it as possible, and shall consist of a modified R1-9 sign to show the location of the crossing.**

Option:

05b **For uncontrolled locations with more than one lane in each direction of travel, advance yield lines (see Section 3B.16) may be used with the 'Yield Here to Pedestrians' signs (R1-5 or R1-5a).**

06 A 12-inch reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign (see Figure 7B-6) may be used at an unsignalized school crossing instead of the In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6 or R1-6a) or the In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing (R1-6b or R1-6c) sign. A 12 x 6-inch reduced size diagonal downward pointing arrow (W16-7P) plaque may be mounted below the reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign.

Support:

06a The In-Street Pedestrian Crossing and the In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing (R1-6a and R1-6c) signs are deleted as a stop is not required in California per CVC 21950.

Standard:

07 If an In-Street Pedestrian Crossing sign, an In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing sign, or a reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign is placed in the roadway, the sign support shall comply with the mounting height and special mounting support requirements for In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6 or R1-6a) signs (see Section 2B.12).

08 The In-Street Pedestrian Crossing sign, the In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing sign, the Overhead Pedestrian Crossing sign, and the reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign shall not be used at signalized locations controlled approaches.

Section 7B.13 School Bus Stop Ahead Sign (S3-1)

Guidance:

01 The School Bus Stop Ahead (S3-1) sign (see Figure 7B-1 or 7B-1(CA)) should be installed in advance of locations where a school bus, when stopped to pick up or discharge passengers, is not visible to road users for an adequate distance and where there is no opportunity to relocate the school bus stop to provide adequate sight distance.

Standard:

02 The School Bus Stop Ahead (S3-1) sign shall be installed in advance of an approved school bus stop where there is not a clear view in advance of the stop from a distance of 200 feet. Refer to CVC 22504(c).

Section 7B.14 SCHOOL BUS TURN AHEAD Sign (S3-2)

Option:

01 The SCHOOL BUS TURN AHEAD (S3-2) sign (see Figure 7B-1 or 7B-1(CA)) may be installed in advance of locations where a school bus turns around on a roadway at a location not visible to approaching road users for a distance as determined by the "0" column under Condition B of Table 2C-4, and where there is no opportunity to relocate the school bus turn around to provide the distance provided in Table 2C-4.

Section 7B.15 School Speed Limit Assembly (S4-1P, S4-2P, S4-3P, S4-4P, S4-6P, S5-1) and END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT Sign (S5-3)

Standard:

01 A School Speed Limit assembly Assembly C(CA) (see Figure 7B-1 7B-1(CA)) or a School Speed Limit (S5-1) sign (see Figure 7B-1) shall be used to indicate the speed limit where a reduced school speed limit zone has been established based upon an engineering study or where a reduced school speed limit is specified for such areas by statute. The School Speed Limit assembly Assembly C(CA) or School Speed Limit sign shall be placed at or as near as practical to the point where the reduced school speed limit zone begins (see Figures 7B-3 and 7B-5).

02 If a reduced school speed limit zone has been established, a School (S1-1) sign shall be installed in advance (see Table 2C-4 for advance placement guidelines) of the first School Speed Limit sign assembly or S5-1 sign that is encountered in each direction as traffic approaches the reduced school speed limit zone (see Figures 7B-3 and 7B-5).

03 Where increased fines are imposed for traffic violations within a reduced school speed limit zone, a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P), FINES DOUBLE (R2-6aP), or \$XX FINE (R2-6bP) plaque (see Figure 2B-3) shall be installed as a supplement to the reduced school speed limit sign to notify road users.

04 **Except as provided in Paragraph 5, the The downstream end of an authorized and posted reduced school speed limit zone shall be identified with an END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT (S5-3) and/or Speed Limit (R2-1) sign (see Figures 7B-1, 7B-1(CA), and 7B-5 and 7B-5(CA)).**

Option:

05 **If a reduced school speed limit zone ends at the same point as a higher fines zone, an END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign may be used instead of a combination of an END HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-11) sign and an END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT (S5-3) sign.**

06 **A standard Speed Limit sign showing the speed limit for the section of highway that is downstream from the authorized and posted reduced school speed limit zone may be mounted on the same post above the END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT (S5-3) sign or the END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign or the Speed Limit (R2-1) sign may be posted by itself (see Figures 7B-5(CA) and 7B-102(CA)).**

Guidance:

07 **The beginning point of a reduced school speed limit zone should be at least 200 feet in advance of the school grounds, a school crossing, or other school related activities; however, this 200 foot distance should be increased if the reduced school speed limit is 30 mph or higher. Refer Figures 7B-1(CA), 7B-5, 7B-5(CA), and 7B-101(CA) through 7B-103(CA).**

Standard:

08 **The School Speed Limit assembly Assembly C(CA) shall be either a fixed-message sign assembly or a changeable message sign.**

09 **The fixed-message School Speed Limit assembly Assembly C(CA) shall consist of a top plaque (S4-3P) with the legend SCHOOL, a Speed Limit (R2-1) sign, and a bottom plaque WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT (S4-1P, S4-2P, S4-4P, or S4-6P) indicating the specific periods of the day and/or days of the week that the special school speed limit is in effect (see Figure 7B-1 7B-1(CA)).**

Option:

10 **Changeable message signs (see Chapter 2L and Section 6F.60) may be used to inform drivers of the school speed limit. If the sign is internally illuminated, it may have a white legend on a black background. Changeable message signs with flashing beacons may be used for situations where greater emphasis of the special school speed limit is needed.**

Guidance:

11 **Even though it might not always be practical because of special features to make changeable message signs conform in all respects to the standards in this Manual for fixed-message signs, during the periods that the school speed limit is in effect, their basic shape, message, legend layout, and colors should comply with the standards for fixed-message signs.**

12 **A confirmation light or device to indicate that the speed limit message is in operation should be considered for inclusion on the back of the changeable message sign.**

Standard:

13 **Fluorescent yellow-green pixels shall be used when the "SCHOOL" message is displayed on a changeable message sign for a school speed limit.**

Option:

14 **Changeable message signs may use blank-out messages or other methods in order to display the school speed limit only during the periods it applies.**

15 **Changeable message signs that display the speed of approaching drivers (see Section 2B.13) may be used in a school speed limit zone.**

16 **A Speed Limit Sign Beacon (see Section 4L.04) also may be used, with a WHEN FLASHING legend, to identify the periods that the school speed limit is in effect.**

Standard:

17 **The School Speed Limit Assembly C(CA) shall be used on streets with speed limits greater than 25 mph that are contiguous to a school building or school grounds.**

Support:

18 **The School Speed Limit Assembly C(CA) is shown in Figure 7B-1(CA).**

Option:

¹⁹ If used, the School Speed Limit Assembly C(CA) may be posted up to 500 feet in advance of the school boundary.

Standard:

²⁰ The "WHEN FLASHING" and specific time period messages shall not be used in school areas in California as they are not supported by CVC 22352. Hence, the Specific Time Period Plaque (S4-1P), WHEN FLASHING (S4-4P) and SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT 20 WHEN FLASHING (S5-1) signs shall not be used in California.

Support:

²¹ The "WHEN FLASHING" message is misleading because it suggests that the speed limit is in force only when the flashing beacons are in operation. The prima facie speed limit of 25 mph is in effect based on the presence of children per CVC 22352, not on the operation of the flashing beacons.

²² Not using the "WHEN FLASHING" message also addresses the situation when children are present but the flashing beacons are inoperative for any reason.

²³ Not using the "WHEN FLASHING" message does not alter the warrants or the use of a flashing yellow beacon or its effectiveness as an attention-getting device.

²⁴ The specific time period message is misleading because it suggests that the speed limit is in force only during the time period specified. The prima facie speed limit of 25 mph is in effect based on the presence of children per CVC 22352, not on the time period specified.

EXTENDED 25 MPH AND/OR REDUCED SPEEDS IN SCHOOL ZONES

Option:

²⁵ A local authority may declare a 20 or 15 mph prima facie speed limit within 500 feet of a school building or school grounds and an extended 25 mph prima facie speed limit within 500 to 1000 feet from a school or school grounds.

Support:

²⁶ The extended 25 mph school speed zone can provide a progressive speed reduction.

Standard:

²⁷ If the local authority declares by ordinance or resolution the above prima facie speed limits, all of the following criteria shall be met:

- A. Street (or highway) is in a residential district.
- B. Street (or highway) outside of a school zone has a posted speed limit no greater than 30 mph.
- C. Street (or highway) has no more than a total of two through traffic lanes (one in each direction or two in one direction).
- D. The reduced school zone speed limit of 20 or 15 mph is within 500 feet of school grounds.
- E. The extended school zone speed limit of 25 mph is within 500 to 1000 feet of school grounds.

²⁸ When used, a local ordinance or resolution adopted to establish a 20 or 15 mph reduced school zone speed limit and/or an extended 25 mph school zone speed limit shall not be effective until School Speed Limit Assembly C (CA) giving notice of the speed limit(s) is erected upon the highway.

²⁹ On a State highway, the ordinance or resolution shall not be effective until the ordinance or resolution has been approved by Caltrans and appropriate school zone speed signs are erected upon the State highway.

³⁰ For purposes of a 20 or 15 mph reduced prima facie speed limit, School Speed Limit Assembly C (CA) indicating a speed limit of 20 or 15 mph shall be placed at a distance up to 500 feet away from school grounds. For purposes of an extended 25 mph prima facie speed limit, School Speed Limit Assembly C (CA) indicating a speed limit of 25 mph shall be placed at any distance between 500 to 1,000 feet away from school grounds. Refer to Figure 7B-103(CA).

³¹ The established school speed limits shall be effective when children are going to or leaving the school, either during school hours or during the noon recess hour. The school speed limits shall also apply when the school grounds are not separated from the highway by a fence, gate, or other physical barrier while the grounds are in use by children (this condition can apply at any time of day or any day of the week).

³² The determination to reduce a prima facie speed limit to 20 or 15 mph and/or extend a 25 mph school zone speed limit, as described above, shall be documented in writing, in an engineering study. The engineering study shall identify the provisions of Section 627 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) that support the reduced and/or extended school zone speed limit(s).

Guidance:

³³ When preparing an engineering study pursuant to the Standard above, the local authority should cite all elements of an Engineering and Traffic Survey, as discussed in CVC Section 627, that support the need for a reduced speed limit of 20 or 15 mph and/or an extended 25 mph school zone speed limit.

Support:

³⁴ The documentation of prevailing speeds found in CVC Section 627 can be used to establish an existing speed profile for the school zone, but the 85th percentile speed is not used to set the reduced or extended school speed limit.

Standard:

³⁵ The local authority shall reimburse Caltrans for all costs incurred by Caltrans under this section.

Section 7B.16 Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead Sign (S4-5, S4-5a)

Guidance:

⁰¹ A Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead (S4-5, S4-5a) sign (see Figure 7B-1 or 7B-1(CA)) should be used to inform road users of a reduced speed zone where the speed limit is being reduced by more than 10 mph, or where engineering judgment indicates that advance notice would be appropriate for the School Advance Warning Assembly D(CA).

Standard:

⁰² If used, the Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead sign shall be followed by a School Speed Limit sign or a School Speed Limit assembly Assembly C(CA).

⁰³ The speed limit displayed on the Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead sign shall be identical to the speed limit displayed on the subsequent School Speed Limit sign or School Speed Limit assembly Assembly C(CA).

EXTENDED 25 MPH AND/OR REDUCED SPEEDS IN SCHOOL ZONES

Guidance:

⁰⁴ For school area traffic control with a reduced school zone speed limit of 15 mph and/or an extended school zone speed limit of 25 mph in a residential district, the Reduced Speed School Zone Ahead (S4-5, S4-5a) sign should be used to give advance notice of a reduced 15 mph school zone speed limit and/or an extended school zone speed limit of 25 mph.

Option:

⁰⁵ For school area traffic control with a reduced school zone speed limit of 20 mph and/or an extended school zone speed limit of 25 mph in a residential district, the Reduced Speed School Zone Ahead (S4-5, S4-5a) sign may be used to give advance notice of a reduced 15 mph school zone speed limit and/or an extended school zone speed limit of 25 mph.

Section 7B.17 Parking and Stopping Signs (R7 and R8 Series)

Option:

⁰¹ Parking and stopping regulatory signs may be used to prevent parked or waiting vehicles from blocking pedestrians' views, and drivers' views of pedestrians, and to control vehicles as a part of the school traffic plan.

Support:

⁰² Parking signs and other signs governing the stopping and standing of vehicles in school areas cover a wide variety of regulations. Typical examples of regulations are as follows:

- A. No Parking X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only,
- B. No Stopping X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only,
- C. XX Min Loading X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only, and
- D. No Standing X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only.

⁰³ Sections 2B.46, 2B.47, and 2B.48 contain information regarding the signing of parking regulations in school zone areas.

⁰⁴ Street closures are authorized by local ordinance or resolution on streets crossing or dividing school grounds when necessary for the protection of persons attending the school. Refer to CVC 21102.