Durham Student Transportation Services

SCHOOL SAFETY BULLETIN

STUDENT SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS

If you drive your child to school, please help keep all students safe.

Serious safety concerns continue to arise around schools throughout Durham Region due to unsafe driving and parking practices.

Common issues include:

- Parking or stopping in designated **No Parking** or **No Stopping** zones.
- Double parking.
- Making illegal U-turns.
- Blocking residential driveways.
- Parking in school bus loading zones.
- Parking on the wrong side of the street.

Of particular concern are drivers who stop in signed **No Stopping** zones to drop off or pick up students. This is not only against the law but also creates a dangerous situation. Students may be forced to cross the street through moving traffic to reach the school grounds, putting their safety at risk.

These concerns are more than traffic infractions. They can place children in serious danger of injury. To help protect students and reduce the risk of collisions and conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles, specific parking and stopping regulations are in place around schools throughout Durham Region.

To ensure the safest possible movement of children to and from school, please follow these recommendations:

- **Walk, scoot, or bike whenever possible.** Travel with your children between home and school.
- **Park legally.** If you must drive, park only in areas where parking is permitted.
- **Keep school driveways clear.** Do not use school driveways to drop off or pick up students unless authorized by school authorities.
- **Respect private property.** Do not use private driveways to turn your vehicle around or to drop off students.
- **Carpool.** Share rides with other parents whenever possible to reduce traffic congestion around schools.
- **Obey all traffic signs.** Follow posted signs and parking and stopping regulations.
- **Watch for school buses.** Obey school bus warning flashers and all applicable traffic laws.
- **Stay alert.** Most importantly, watch carefully for children whenever you are driving in a school area.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL PARKING AND STOPPING ZONES

1. NO STOPPING ZONES/FIRE ROUTE VIOLATIONS



- These zones are established in specific locations where stopping a vehicle could create a traffic hazard, cause congestion, block the route for fire safety vehicles or interfere with the safe use of a school crossing. **Stopping is not permitted** for picking up or dropping off school children.

2. SCHOOL CROSSING ZONES



- You must not stop or park in a school crossing zone for any reason, including picking up or dropping off students.
- Clear sightlines must be maintained so students can safely cross the street.
- Vehicles stopped in these areas create serious hazards. School crossing guards are not permitted to step into the roadway to check for traffic. Stopped vehicles can obstruct their view of approaching traffic, making it more difficult to help students cross safely.

3. NO PARKING ZONES



- You may stop briefly to pick up or drop off school children, provided the pickup or drop-off is actively taking place and stopping is otherwise permitted.
- You must not leave your vehicle parked while waiting for your children.

4. SCHOOL BUS LOADING ZONES



- These zones are reserved exclusively for school buses and vehicles authorized under contract to Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS).
- You must not stop or park in these zones for any reason, including picking up or dropping off students.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Always obey posted signs and follow local parking and stopping regulations. A few moments of convenience should never put a child's safety at risk.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART

When driving your child to school, follow all posted signs and traffic regulations. Choose a safe, legal place to stop, and never put students at risk by stopping in a prohibited zone.

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Help protect our children by following these recommendations every day.

Every safe decision makes a difference.

Thank you for helping keep our students safe.