



OSHKOSH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
420 JACKSON STREET  
OSHKOSH, WI 54901  
(920) 236-5742

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### OSHKOSH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Date: September 3, 2013  
Time: 9:00 A.M.  
Contact: Officer Joseph Nichols  
Public Information Officer  
(920) 236-5742

Subject: School is in Session

The Oshkosh Police Department is reminding citizens to drive carefully around schools and when driving through school zones as all schools are back in session. Speeding, failure to yield right of way to pedestrians and adult crossing guards and parking continue to be the major problems around the schools in Oshkosh.

The 15 mph school zones are posted for the safety of the children. Did you know that in a 15 mph crash involving a motor vehicle and pedestrian, there's a 90% + chance of the pedestrian surviving the crash. In a 30 mph crash involving a motor vehicle and pedestrian, the chances of a pedestrian surviving decrease dramatically to 55% and at 40 mph there is only a 15% chance of pedestrian survival. At 50 mph, there is virtually no chance of survival.

When entering a school zone, be aware of children that may suddenly run off the curb or sidewalk into traffic. The peripheral vision in children under the age of 12 is not fully developed. Children cannot see as well as adults and may miss seeing the vehicle coming down the road. A child's hearing is not fully developed as well. A child may hear a sound, but may not know from where it is coming from. A child also does not fully understand how to determine how fast a vehicle is travelling and may believe that they can outrun a vehicle while crossing the street.

Parents must obey all the parking signs located around a school. The signs are numerous and are there for a purpose: Children's Safety. The signs include Bus Loading Zone; No Parking During School Hours; No Stopping, Standing, Waiting; among others that prohibit parking. In many cases, the signs are not being adhered to by parents or guardians who have children attending the school or visitors to the school.

Adult Crossing Guards have a difficult job getting children across the street safely when motorists disregard the speed limit, pedestrian crossing and stop signs that are near the school crossings. When entering the school zone, slow down. WI State Statute 346.57(3) requires all vehicle operators to reduce speeds at all intersections..., when passing school children... and when special hazard exists with regard to other traffic...

In addition, WI SS 346.57 (4) (a) no person shall drive in excess of the speed limit of 15 mph when passing a school house at those times when children are going to or from school or playing within the sidewalk area at or about the school; and (b) 15 mph when passing an

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intersection or other location properly marked with a "school crossing" sign...when any of the following conditions exists: (1) Any child is present; (2) A school crossing guard is within a crosswalk at the intersection or other location or, if no crosswalk exists, is in the roadway at the intersection...; and (3) A school crossing guard is placing in or removing from the roadway at or near the intersection...a temporary sign or device that guides, warns or regulates traffic.

The Oshkosh Police Department will be patrolling and checking speeds in school zones in the coming school year. Fines for speeding in a school zone begin at \$187.90 and 3 points between 1-10 mph over the 15 mph speed limit and increase to \$389.50 and 6 points for 20 or more over the 15 mph speed limit. Parking citations begin at \$15. Fines for Failure to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians begin at \$175 and 4 points and failure to stop for adult school crossing guard is \$187.90 and 3 points.

The Oshkosh Police Department requests for the safety of the children, slow down, don't park in restricted areas around school and give the crossing guards a brake. Thank you.

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