



## Frequently Asked Questions Related To School Zones

**Is it legal to drive across double yellow lines or raised markers to pass stopped traffic?** No. Never drive to the left of these lines unless you are: Turning left at an intersection. Turning into or out of a private road or driveway. (California Vehicle Code 21460 a / d), (California Driver Handbook, Page 17)

**When parking near a stop sign how far away must a vehicle be from the stop sign?** The bumper of a parked vehicle cannot extend into any portion of the rounded corner of an intersection. If there are "No Parking" "No Stopping" signs no portion of the car may stop along the curb beyond the pole the sign is mounted on. It is illegal to park within three feet of a sidewalk ramp for disabled persons or in front of or on a curb which provides wheelchair access to a sidewalk. This applies at all curbs adjacent to the school. (California Vehicle Code 22500 i), (Title 10, Section 10.20.020 v of the Vacaville Municipal Code), (California Driver Handbook, page 44)

**Can I park in the designated loading zone (painted yellow) and walk my kids into the school?** No, a loading zone is simply that. When the vehicle is unoccupied or not in the process of being loaded or unloaded, it is considered parked. (California Vehicle Code 21458 a), (Vacaville Municipal Code 10.20.020f)

**Can I cross mid block between the crosswalks?** Yes, it is legal to cross mid block or at an unmarked crosswalk as long as it is done safely and does not impact the flow of traffic. It is not recommended that pedestrians cross any street if a crosswalk is within close proximity or crossing guards are present. (21954 a California Vehicle Code)

**Can I make a U-turn in front of the school or in a residential district?** Yes, if, there are no other vehicles approaching within 200' and there is a clear, unobstructed view. (California Vehicle Code 22103, 22105)

**Can I load or unload my children on the driver's side of the vehicle?** Depends, if, the door can be opened reasonably safe and can be done without interfering with traffic, and only for a period of time necessary to load or unload passengers. (California Vehicle 22517)

**Can I stop within an intersection?** No. A driver of a vehicle shall not enter an intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or marked crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle driven without obstructing the through passage of vehicles from either side. (California Vehicle Code 22526)

**Bicycle:** If you allow your child to ride their bicycle to school, make sure they wear their bicycle helmet correctly and properly secured. Also teach your child to follow bicycling laws i.e. riding on the right-hand side of the road (same direction as traffic), stopping for stop signs, and a maximum of one occupant per bicycle.

**Pedestrian Safety:** Teach your child how to cross the street by using the crosswalk and looking in both directions for traffic. When appropriate, use the crosswalks that are staffed by crossing guards.

**Driving in school zones:** Abide by all traffic laws. Remember the speed limits in school zones are 25 MPH when children are present (regardless of the posted speed). Drive cautiously in school zones, children often do not pay attention and may run in front of vehicles. Buckle up yourself and your children.

**Parking at the school:** Please abide by all parking zones in and around the school; they are strategically placed for you and your child's safety. Especially, do not park in or obstruct a handicapped parking stall (the violation is \$355.00.) Do not leave your child unattended in your vehicle; temperatures can exceed 125 degrees within 6 minutes.

**Fire Hydrants:** Do not park within 6' (prolongation of the curb line) of a fire hydrant. The fine is \$105. The curbs are not required to be painted red.

**Driving and parking in school zones can be a hectic time for parents.  
Try the following tips:**

**Arrive early-** Even 5 minutes earlier can make a difference.

**Car pooling-** One seatbelt per child.

**Park a block or two away-** Walk to the school. Encourage exercise.

**Prearrange a location for your child to wait for you-** Make sure the location is safe and legal for you to stop in.