

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Many crossing guards are community, parent, or teacher volunteers who may have little or no experience when it comes to knowing what to wear or how to properly cross children. Since they are entrusted with children's lives, it is imperative that they be properly trained to protect student walkers and cyclists and ensure that motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians follow the rules of the road.

Proper training should reinforce many of the techniques that most adults take for granted when crossing a street. The lessons should use real-life examples and information that will prepare crossing guards to help children cross a street safely. Crossing guard training can be accessed at www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/SchoolResourcesAndPrograms/SafeRoutesToSchool/Pages/Crossing-Guard-Training.aspx.

Some important points and tips from this crossing guard training include the following:



Crossing guards should always wear their safety apparel properly, including reflective vests.

Use the Scanning Procedure:

- Look left – right – left.
- Look over your shoulder.
- Listen.

Know How to Extend Gaps in Traffic:

1. Assemble children at curbside.
 - Children should wait to be crossed.
 - Stand one step back from the curb or edge of roadway.
 - Gather as a group.
 - Remind the gathered children to do the following:
 - Perform the scanning procedure.
 - Stay within the crosswalk markings.
 - Walk their bicycles while in the crosswalk.
 - Continue scanning for traffic until they are off the road.
2. Select a gap in traffic.
 - Manage gaps in traffic using the STOP paddle.
 - If at a signalized intersection, only cross when the light is red for motorists and use the pedestrian signals when available.
 - Scan for traffic.
 - Use a whistle to get the attention of inattentive or problem motorists.
3. Enter the crosswalk.
 - Do this only after all traffic has stopped.
4. Stop traffic on the far side.
 - Make eye contact with the first approaching motorists as well as the motorists in each lane.
5. Take position.
 - Do not cross children if traffic is moving or vehicles are in the crosswalk.
6. Cross children.
 - Signal children to cross with your free hand.
 - Continue to hold STOP paddle in the correct position.
 - Remain in the crosswalk until the last child has moved off the road.

**Follow the
same proper
procedure
at all times,
even when
traffic is light.**

7. Complete the crossing.
 - Check the crosswalk for stragglers.
8. Return to the roadside.
 - Continue to display the STOP paddle as you move from the crosswalk.
9. Place STOP paddle down.
 - Signal traffic to resume after leaving the road by lowering the STOP paddle.
 - Wait for the next group of children.

Practice Good Behavior:

- Arrive on time, not too early.
- Stand at your post – never sit.
- Maintain self-control.
- Be firm, courteous, and pleasant.
- Exhibit behavior that projects a positive image.

Use the Proper Equipment:

- Retroreflective STOP paddle (required)
- Fluorescent and retroreflective vest (required)
- Fluorescent rainwear (required)
- Retroreflective gloves (recommended)
- Whistle (recommended)

Know What to Do if There is a Crash:

1. Call 911 first.
 - Have notepad and pencil for jotting down details.
 - Describe the vehicles involved.
 - Try to get license plate numbers, if possible.
2. Telephone your supervisor.
 - The incident may block your primary crossing.
 - The crash scene may require you to employ a contingency plan to safely cross children.