

Memorandum

To: Ron May
Director of Administrative Services
From: Board Policy Committee
Date: July 2, 2015
Re: School Zones

Recommendations for city policy:

The District's Policy Committee has met to discuss potential City of Lawrence policy options regarding school zones. The City and the Safe Routes to School Group have requested the District's Policy Committee provide input on possible language the City might consider as it addresses school zone issues.

Here are some key points the Policy Committee recommends the City consider:

1. Define school zone in the city ordinance as follows:

“School zone” means that roadway or portion of thereof customarily used by students of a public or private school and which has been set aside and designated by the erection of plainly visible symbol signs indicating the extent of such zone.”

2. The attached manuals form the basis of developing a comprehensive policy to address school crossing zones. The committee recommends including an introduction similar to those found in the Wichita and Olathe manuals. Each of the referenced manuals are based upon the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which has been adopted by the Kansas Department of Transportation. If there are deviations from these standards, it is suggested the rationale for the change is included.
3. The committee recommends middle schools be included in the policy since sixth grade students walk to school.
4. The committee recommends that any changes made to school zones be done outside of the school year and that district administrators be notified 60-90 days in advance so that school communities can be informed and educated about the changes.

Principals will be a good resource as the policy is developed and both Vanessa and Shannon have indicated they are willing to meet to discuss these recommendations. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will share them with the committee. Attached are the referenced manuals.