



Welcome back!

August 2023

The City of Markham Parking Enforcement Unit is reaching out to all Markham schools to make you aware of the many school zone parking complaints that we receive each year. We aim to reduce unsafe vehicular activity in school zones by communicating to you the common school zone parking violations.

The City of Markham has over 90 schools and Public safety is important to us. We continue to do everything we can to address all of the complaints received. Despite posted signage, education, and enforcement, residents are continuing to park their vehicles in violation of the City of Markham Parking By-law. Schools within the City of Markham are patrolled regularly and we continue to work closely with York Regional Police and Fire and Emergency Services throughout the year to attend schools requiring additional assistance. Verbal and/or physical threats against a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer will not be tolerated. Officers are expected to report all of these incidents to York Regional Police.

The City of Markham has implemented the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS). AMPS is a more efficient way for municipalities to enforce parking bylaws. It allows for parking tickets to be served in a variety of different methods; for example, they may now be served through mail if a vehicle is found in violation. In particular, traffic congestion during school drop off/pick up times present unique challenges for enforcement. Mailing parking tickets allows officers to address most of the illegally parked vehicles and not just one or two vehicles.

General inquiries and parking complaints, including on street parking should be directed to the Contact Centre at 905 477 7000 ext. 2050. For all general information regarding parking, please feel free to visit the City of Markham website at <https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/about/city-hall/bylaws/bylaw>.

Please aid us in keeping school zones safe!

**“The real penalty for not obeying parking regulations is that you may risk the safety of children!”**

Sincerely,

Jeff Rahim  
Municipal Law Enforcement Supervisor | Parking Operations  
City of Markham

## Common School Zone Parking Violations

The City's Parking Enforcement Unit has implemented some new penalties for vehicles parked or stopped in violation within a school zone to help address those safety issues. Vehicles that are parked within a school zone will be subject to increased fines.

Drivers should be reminded to park in **permitted** areas only, which may include:

1. The school parking lot in accordance with signs posted; or,
2. Streets that **do not** have prohibited parking or prohibited stopping signs posted.

In addition to the most common parking violations listed below, drivers should ensure that they do not violate other parking regulations such as, parking too close or obstructing a fire hydrant, intersection, bus stop, private driveway, pathway, crosswalk, super mailbox, sidewalk etc.

### Fire Route



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the area is a Fire Route. Fire Routes are classified as roads, laneways, or driveways that provide access to a building and may also include areas within a parking lot. A driver is in violation of this parking regulation if they are stopped or parked in a Fire Route even if their engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the vehicle.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up passengers – there cannot be a delay. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away. **There should be no waiting; if the child is not at the curb, the parent should move and return when the child is present.**

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are **not** permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or
2. Leave their vehicle for any reason (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

Certain schools may have designated kiss-and-rides. These designated areas may or may not also be part of a fire route. It is important to note that the fire route restrictions take precedence over such kiss-and-rides and that the parking of vehicles in such areas are permitted only for the immediate pick-up and drop-off of passengers.

If passengers are not immediately picked up then the vehicle must not park in the fire route – for any length of time and even if the fire route is designated as a kiss-and-ride.

## Prohibited Stopping



These signs are posted in order to alert drivers that stopping is prohibited. They are often posted on the surrounding streets of a school and may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to stop their vehicle - drivers must continue to drive with the flow of traffic.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are **not** permitted to:

1. Stop their vehicle to let passengers in or out of their vehicle; or
2. Stop and wait for their child to get into the vehicle.

Prohibited stopping areas are far more restrictive on what vehicular activity a person may be engaged in. A vehicle should not be stopped in a no stopping zone at any time, even for the purposes of loading/unloading goods and/or passengers.

## Prohibited Parking



These signs are posted in order to alert drivers that parking is prohibited within the vicinity of the sign. A driver is in violation of this parking regulation if they have stopped the vehicle within the posted area. The vehicle is considered parked even if the engine is running, the hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car. Additionally, these signs may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to park their vehicle within the signed area.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – there must not be a delay. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and then the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away. **There should be no waiting; if the child is not at the curb, the parent should move and return when the child is present.**

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are **not** permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or,
2. Leave their vehicle for any reason (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

## Accessible Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the parking spot they are located in is reserved for individuals with valid Accessible Parking Permits only. Vehicles are not permitted to park, stop, block, turn around in or otherwise occupy the spot unless a person with a valid Accessible Parking Permit is inside the vehicle. In addition, even with possession of such permits, the permit must be properly displayed. It is important to note that the permit is issued to an individual, not the vehicle; accordingly, drivers that are transporting individuals with accessible parking permits are subject to a parking ticket should the permit holder no longer be in the vehicle while the vehicle is occupying an accessible parking spot.

## Common Parking Definitions

Below you will find some of our common definitions from the City of Markham's Parking Control By-law # 2005-188.

**"Fire Route"** means any roadway, driveway, lane, ramp or other means of vehicular access to or from a designated building which is designated as a fire access route by the City's Fire Department and shall include any part of a parking lot set aside by visible markings or markers for the purpose of vehicular movement.

**"Park" or "Parking"** means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when halting temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading goods or passengers.

**"Stop" or "Stopping"** means the halting or leaving of a motor vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or of a traffic control sign or signal.

**"Highway"** includes a common or public highway, street, avenue, boulevard, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct, laneway, court, or trestle, designated and intended for, or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles; and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof; after "for the passage of vehicles.

## How can parents help?

- Observe and obey all traffic/parking signs
- Do not leave your car unattended
- Do not make U-turns in a school zone
- Give yourself extra time so that you are not rushed
- Respect other drivers. Be patient.
- Do not use private driveways in the area as alternate pick up/drop off points. Please respect other homeowners/private business properties.
- If you must drive, park legally - even if this means walking some distance.
- Recognize that safety takes precedent over convenience.
- **Encourage alternative transportation (biking, walking, and taking the bus).**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How close to the curb should drivers park?**

Drivers should not park more than **15cm (6 inches)** from a curb.

### **2. How close to an intersection may drivers park?**

A vehicle should not be parked within 9m (30 ft.) of an intersection on any road. This includes the portion of an intersection where two roads intersect to form a 'T'-shaped zone. In addition to the above, a vehicle should not be parked within 15m (49 ft.) of any signalized intersection.

### **3. How far should drivers park away from a fire hydrant?**

Drivers should maintain a distance of 3m (10 ft.) from the fire hydrant. This includes areas where a fire hydrant may be located a substantial distance from the curb and/or street. Vehicles must park at least 3m (10 ft.) clear of the curb that lines up with a fire hydrant provided there are no other parking restrictions.

### **4. What do I do when I receive a parking ticket?**

Individuals that receive a parking ticket either in person, on the vehicle, or by mail, are advised to follow the directions provided on the back of the parking ticket. It is the responsibility of the driver to respond in a timely manner.