

PART 7. TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR SCHOOL AREAS

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PART 7

TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR SCHOOL AREAS

CHAPTER 7B. SIGNS

Section 7B.01 Size of School Signs

Standard:

- 01 Except as provided in [Section 2A.11 of this Supplement](#), the sizes of signs and plaques to be used on conventional roadways in school areas shall be as shown in [Table 7B-1\(VA\) in this Supplement](#).
- 02 The sizes in the Conventional Road column shall be used unless engineering judgment determines that a minimum or oversized sign size would be more appropriate.
- 03 The sizes in the Minimum column shall be used only where traffic volumes are low and speeds are 30 mph or lower, as determined by engineering judgment.
- 04 The sizes in the Oversized column shall be used on expressways.

Guidance:

- 05 *The sizes in the Oversized column should be used on roadways that have four or more lanes with posted speed limits of 40 mph or higher.*

Option:

- 06 The sizes in the Oversized column may also be used at other locations that require increased emphasis, improved recognition, or increased legibility.
- 07 Signs and plaques larger than those shown in [Table 7B-1\(VA\) in this Supplement](#) may be used (see [Section 2A.11 of this Supplement](#)).


Section 7B.11 School Advance Crossing Assembly

Standard:

- 01 The School Advance Crossing assembly (see [Figure 7B-1\(VA\) in this Supplement](#)) shall consist of a School (S1-1) sign supplemented with an AHEAD (W16-9P) plaque or an XX FEET (W16-2P or W16-2aP) plaque.
- 02 Except as provided in Paragraph 3, a School Advance Crossing assembly shall be used in advance (see Table 2C-4 for advance placement guidelines) of the first School Crossing assembly (see [Section 7B.12 of this Supplement](#)) that is encountered in each direction as traffic approaches a school crosswalk (see Figure 7B-4).

Table 7B-1 (VA). School Area Sign and Plaque Sizes

Sign	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Minimum	Oversized
School	S1-1	7B.08	36 x 36	30 x 30	48 x 48
School Bus Stop Ahead	S3-1	7B.13	36 x 36	30 x 30	48 x 48
School Bus Turn Ahead	S3-2	7B.14	36 x 36	30 x 30	48 x 48
Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead	S4-5, S4-5a	7B.16	36 x 36	30 x 30	48 x 48
School Speed Limit XX When Flashing	S5-1	7B.15	24 x 48	—	36 x 72
End School Zone	S5-2	7B.09	24 x 30	—	36 x 48
End School Speed Limit	S5-3	7B.15	24 x 30	—	36 x 48
In-Street Ped Crossing	R1-6, R1-6a , R1-6b, R1-6c	7B.11, 7B.12	12 x 36	—	—
Speed Limit (School Use)	R2-1	7B.15	24 x 30	—	36 x 48
Begin Higher Fines Zone	R2-10	7B.10	24 x 30	—	36 x 48
End Higher Fines Zone	R2-11	7B.10	24 x 30	—	36 x 48
X:XX to X:XX AM X:XX to X:XX PM	S4-1P	7B.15	24 x 10	—	36 x 18
When Children Are Present	S4-2P	7B.15	24 x 10	—	36 x 18
School	S4-3P	7B.09, 7B.15	24 x 8	—	36 x 12
When Flashing	S4-4P	7B.15	24 x 10	—	36 x 18
Mon-Fri	S4-6P	7B.15	24 x 10	—	36 x 18
All Year	S4-7P	7B.09	24 x 12	—	30 x 18
Fines Higher	R2-6P	7B.10	24 x 18	—	36 x 24
XX Feet	W16-2P	7B.08	24 x 18	—	30 x 24
XX Ft	W16-2aP	7B.08	24 x 12	—	30 x 18
Turn Arrow	W16-5P	7B.08, 7B.09, 7B.11	24 x 12	—	30 x 18
Advance Turn Arrow	W16-6P	7B.08, 7B.09, 7B.11	24 x 12	—	30 x 18
Diagonal Arrow	W16-7P	7B.12	24 x 12	—	30 x 18

Sign	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Minimum	Oversized
Diagonal Arrow (optional size)	W16-7P	7B.12	21 x 15	—	—
Ahead	W16-9P	7B.11	24 x 12	—	30 x 18
 Virginia Specific Signs					
STATE LAW STOP FOR SCHOOL BUS LOADING OR UNLOADING CHILDREN	S0-V1	7B.17	48 x 48	—	—

Note: 1. Larger sizes may be used when appropriate
 2. Dimensions are shown in inches and are shown as width x height
 3. Minimum sign sizes for multi-lane conventional roads shall be as shown in the Conventional Road column

Option:

- 03 The School Advance Crossing assembly may be omitted (see Figure 7B-5) where a School Zone (S1-1) sign (see [Section 7B.09 of the MUTCD](#)) is installed to identify the beginning of a school zone in advance of the School Crossing assembly.
- 04 If a school crosswalk is located on a cross street in close proximity to an intersection, a School Advance Crossing assembly with a supplemental arrow (W16-5P or W16-6P) plaque may be installed on each approach of the street or highway to warn road users making a turn onto the cross street that they will encounter a school crosswalk soon after making the turn.
- 05 A 12-inch reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign (see [Figure 7B-6\(VA\) in this Supplement](#)), installed in compliance with the mounting height and special mounting support requirements for In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6) signs (see [Section 2B.12 of this Supplement](#)), may be used in advance of a school crossing to supplement the post-mounted school warning signs. A 12 x 6-inch reduced size AHEAD (W16-9P) plaque may be mounted below the reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign.

Support:

- 06 The Code of Virginia § 46.2-924 requires that drivers at crosswalks yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the highway. The Standard statement in Section 2B.12 of the National MUTCD permits the use of the Stop for Pedestrians (R1-6a and R1-9a) signs only if state law specifically requires the driver to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. As The Code of Virginia does not require a driver to stop, the R1-6a and R1-9a signs cannot be utilized.

Standard:

- 07 **The R1-6a In Street Pedestrian Crossing sign shall not be used (see Section 2B.12 of this Supplement).**



- Option:
 08 If used, the R1-6 In Street Pedestrian Crossing sign may omit the legend STATE LAW (see Section 2B.12 of this Supplement).

Figure 7B-1(VA). School Area Signs

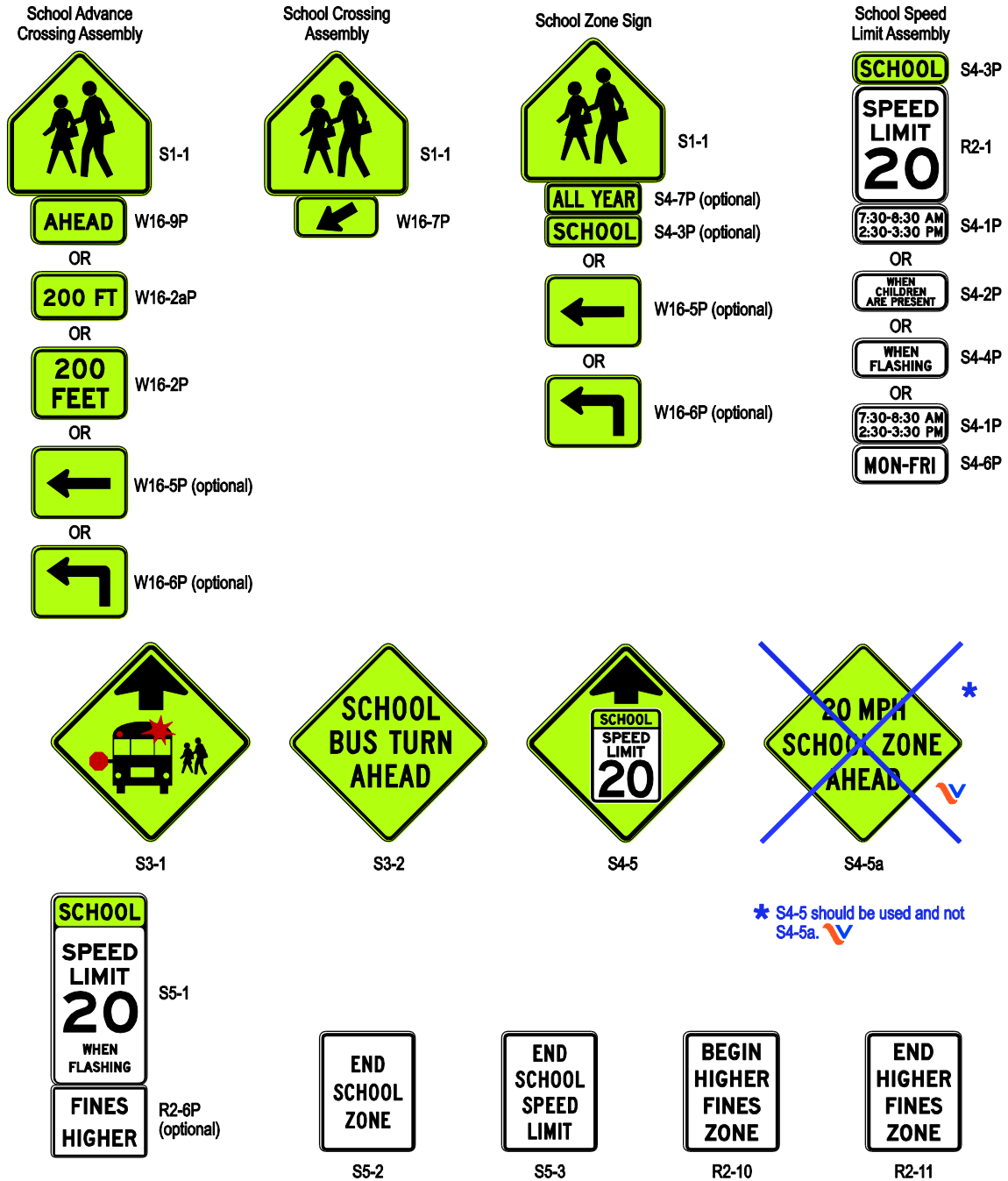
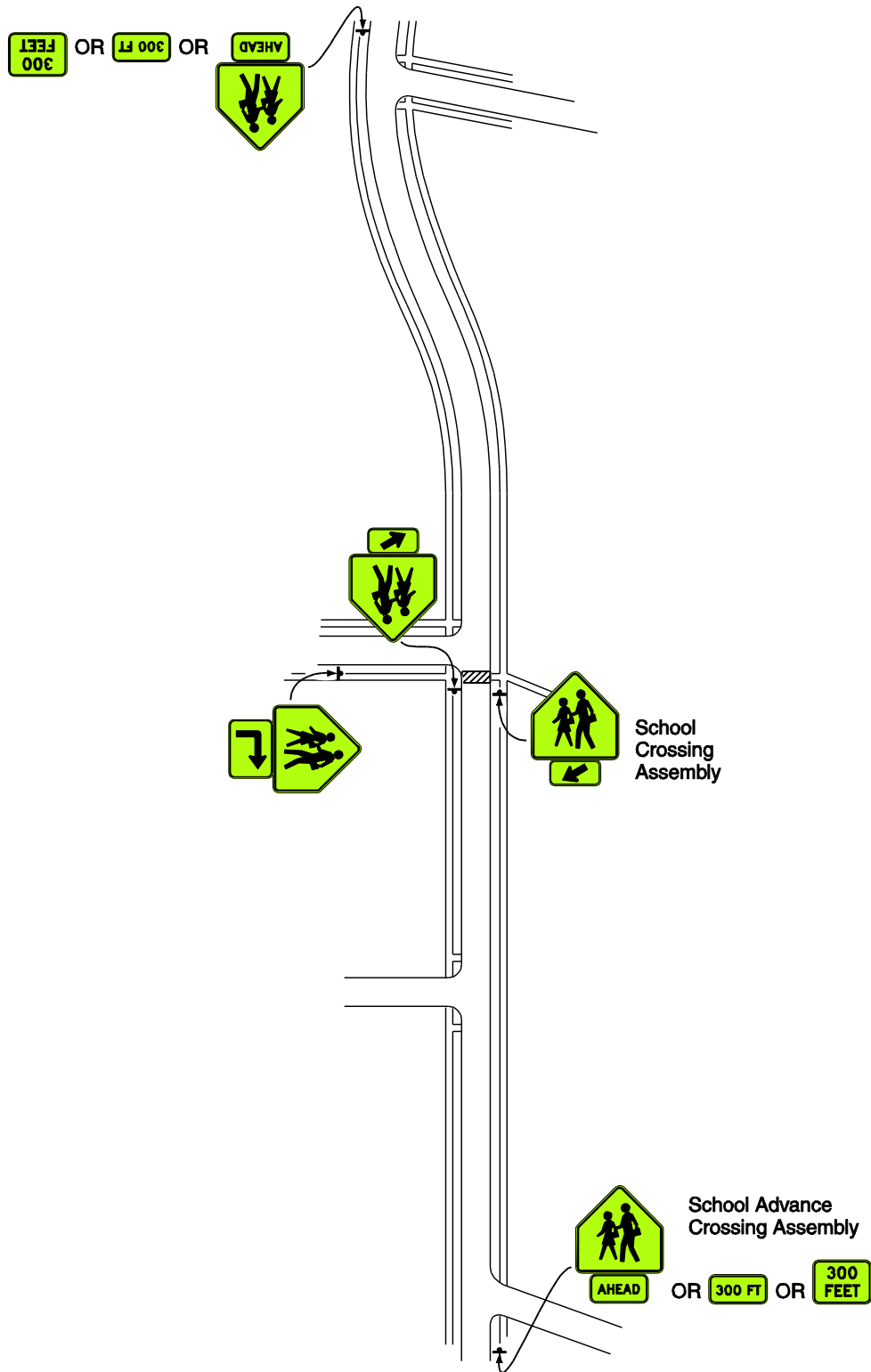


Figure 7B-4. Example of Signing for a School Crossing Outside of a School Zone



Section 7B.12 School Crossing Assembly

Standard:

- 01 If used, the School Crossing assembly (see [Figure 7B-1\(VA\) in this Supplement](#)) shall be installed at the school crossing (see [Figures 7B-4 and 7B-5](#)), or as close to it as possible, and shall consist of a School (S1-1) sign supplemented with a diagonal downward pointing arrow (W16-7P) plaque to show the location of the crossing.
- 02 The School Crossing assembly shall not be used at crossings other than those adjacent to schools and those on established school pedestrian routes.
- 03 The School Crossing assembly shall not be installed on approaches controlled by a STOP or YIELD sign.

Option:

- 04 The In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6) sign (see [Section 2B.12 of this Supplement](#) and [Figure 7B-6\(VA\) in this Supplement](#)) or the In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing (R1-6b) sign (see [Figure 7B-6\(VA\) in this Supplement](#)) may be used at unsignalized school crossings. If used at a school crossing, a 12 x 4-inch SCHOOL (S4-3P) plaque (see [Figure 7B-6\(VA\) in this Supplement](#)) may be mounted above the sign. The STATE LAW legend on the R1-6 and R1-6b signs may be omitted.

Support:

- 05 The Code of Virginia § 46.2-924 requires that drivers at crosswalks yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the highway. The Standard statement in Section 2B.12 of the National MUTCD permits the use of the Stop for Pedestrians (R1-6a) sign only if state law specifically requires the driver to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. As the Code of Virginia does not require a driver to stop, the R1-6a, and by extension, R1-6c signs, cannot be utilized.

Standard:

- 06 **The R1-6a In Street Pedestrian Crossing and R1-6c In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing signs shall not be used (see Section 2B.12 of this Supplement).**

Option:

- 07 A 12-inch reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign (see [Figure 7B-6\(VA\) in this Supplement](#)) may be used at an unsignalized school crossing instead of the In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6) or the In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing (R1-6b) sign. A 12 x 6-inch reduced size diagonal downward pointing arrow (W16-7P) plaque may be mounted below the reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign.

Standard:

- 08 **If an In-Street Pedestrian Crossing sign, an In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing sign, or a reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign is placed in the roadway, the sign support shall comply with the mounting height and special mounting support requirements for In-Street Pedestrian Crossing (R1-6) signs (see Section 2B.12 of this Supplement).**
- 09 **The In-Street Pedestrian Crossing sign, the In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing sign, the Overhead Pedestrian Crossing sign, and the reduced size in-street School (S1-1) sign shall not be used at signalized locations.**



Figure 7B-5. Example of Signing for a School Zone with a School Speed Limit and a School Crossing

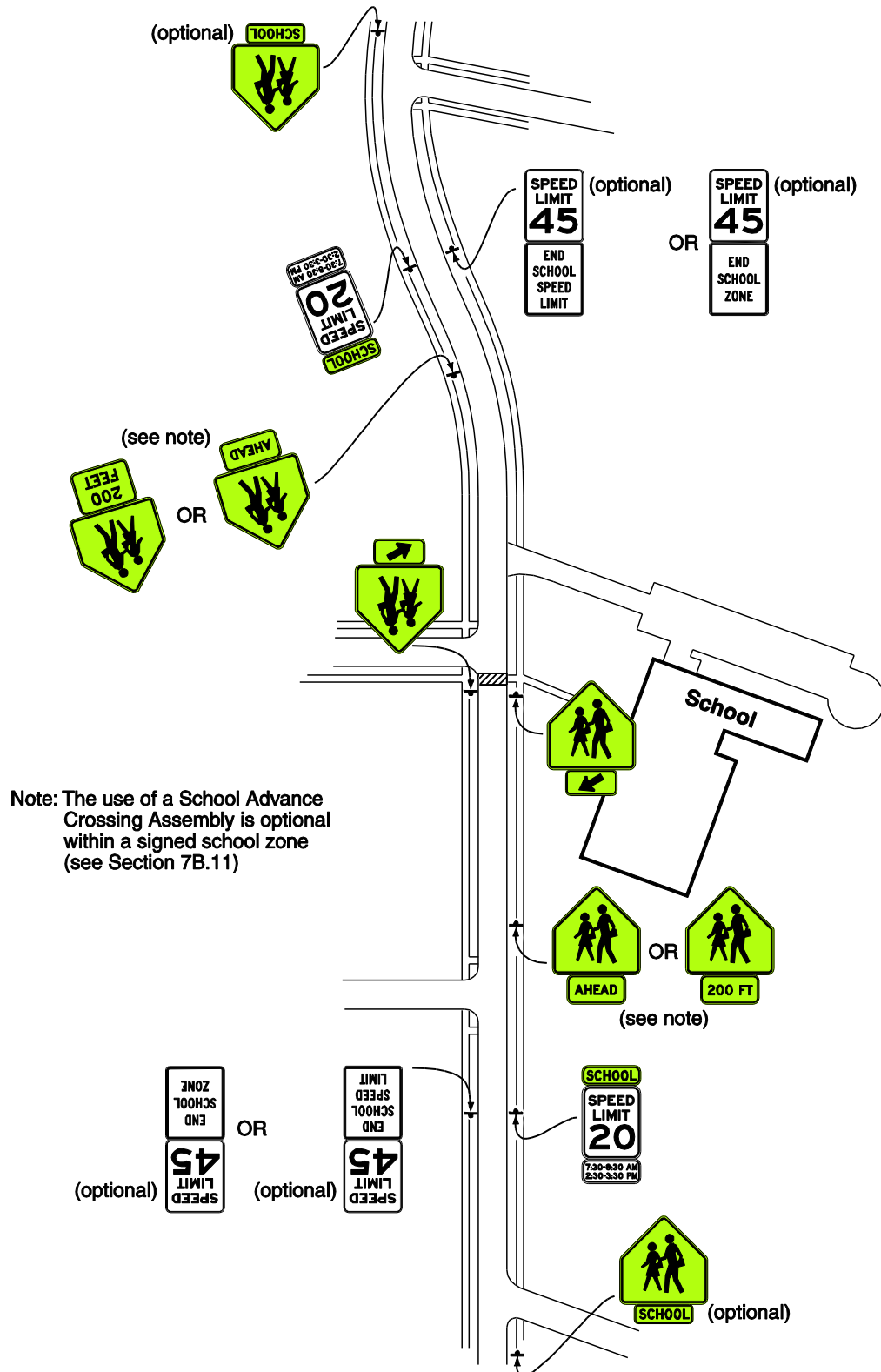
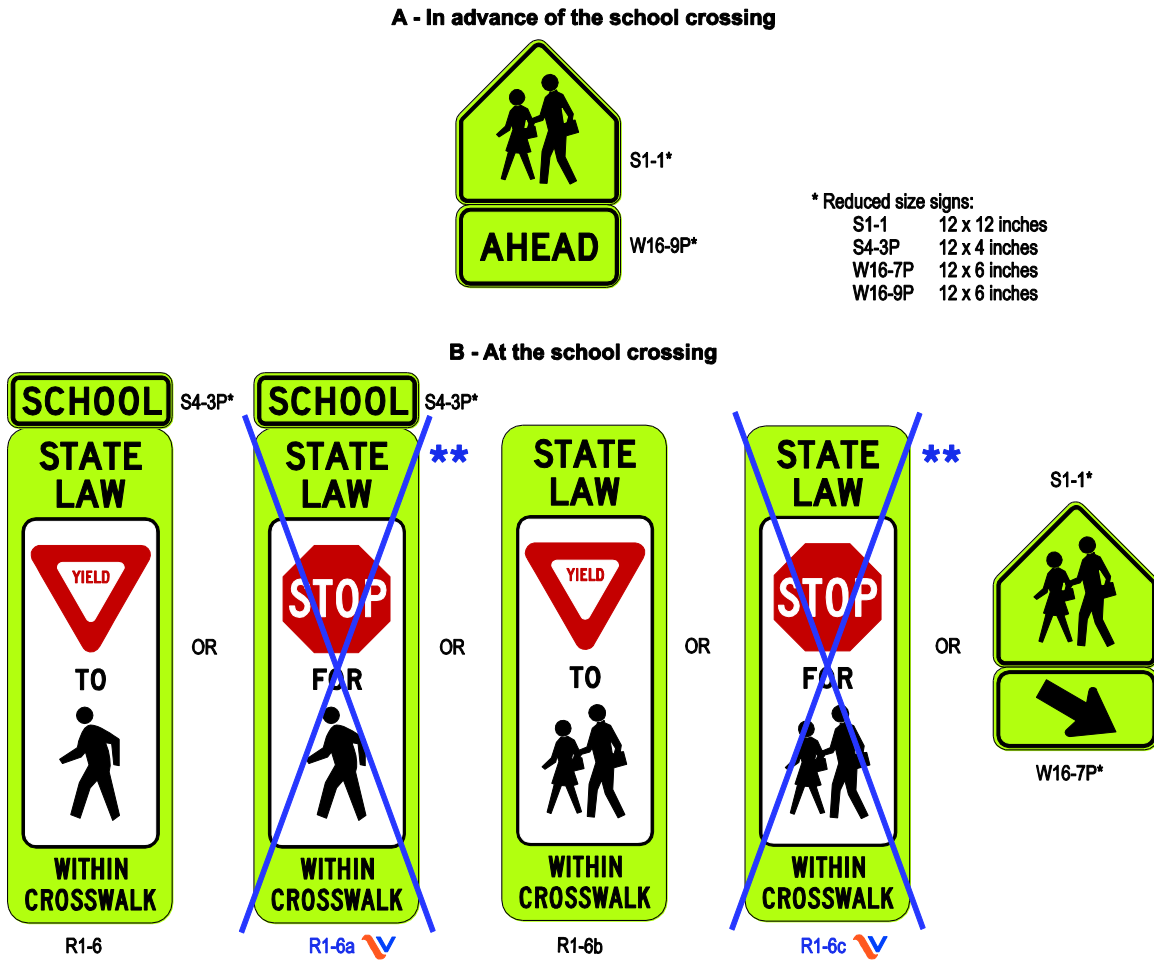


Figure 7B-6(VA). In-Street Signs in School Areas



Notes:

1. The use of the STATE LAW legend is optional on the R1-6 series signs (see Section 7B.12).
 2. The use of the SCHOOL plaque above the R1-6 and R1-6a signs is optional.
- ** The R1-6a and R1-6c signs shall not be used in Virginia, as the Virginia code requires drivers to yield to pedestrians.

Section 7B.16 Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead Sign (S4-5, S4-5a)

Guidance:



- 01 *A Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead (S4-5) sign (see Figure 7B-1(VA) in this Supplement) should be used to inform road users of a reduced speed zone where the speed limit is being reduced by more than 10 mph, or where engineering judgment indicates that advance notice would be appropriate. If used, the symbolic Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead (S4-5) sign should be used and the text Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead sign (S4-5a) sign should not be used.*

Standard:

- 02 **If used, the Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead sign shall be followed by a School Speed Limit sign or a School Speed Limit assembly.**
- 03 **The speed limit displayed on the Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead sign shall be identical to the speed limit displayed on the subsequent School Speed Limit sign or School Speed Limit assembly.**

Section 7B.17 Parking and Stopping Signs (R7 and R8 Series)**Option:**

- 01 Parking and stopping regulatory signs may be used to prevent parked or waiting vehicles from blocking pedestrians' views, and drivers' views of pedestrians, and to control vehicles as a part of the school traffic plan.

Support:

- 02 Parking signs and other signs governing the stopping and standing of vehicles in school areas cover a wide variety of regulations. Typical examples of regulations are as follows:
 - A. No Parking X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only,
 - B. No Stopping X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only,
 - C. XX Min Loading X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only, and
 - D. No Standing X:XX AM to X:XX PM School Days Only.
- 03 Section 2B.46 of this Supplement and Sections 2B.47 and 2B.48 of the MUTCD contain information regarding the signing of parking regulations in school zone areas.

Guidance:

- 04 *STATE LAW STOP FOR SCHOOL BUS LOADING OR UNLOADING CHILDREN (S0-V1) signs (see Figure 7B-V1 in this Supplement) should be installed on undivided highways where engineering judgement indicates a need to inform and remind motorists that they shall not pass - from any direction - a school bus that is loading or unloading children.*
- 05 *Signs should be installed at or near state boundaries, leaving the corporate limits of a city or town, and at other locations where engineering judgment determines they are necessary.*

Support:

- 06 The STATE LAW STOP FOR SCHOOL BUS LOADING OR UNLOADING CHILDREN (S0-V1) signs are installed in accordance with the Code of Virginia § 46.2-859.





Figure 7B-V1. Stop for School Bus Loading or Unloading Children Sign



S0-V1