



Welcome back!

August 2018

We are reaching out to all Markham schools at the beginning of the school year to make you aware of the many complaints the City receives each year about parking and unsafe vehicular activity in school zones and to communicate some new initiatives.

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 signage, continuing education and enforcement, people unfortunately are continuing to park their vehicles in violation. Our schools are patrolled regularly. In addition, we continue to work closely with York Regional Police and Fire and Emergency Services throughout the year to attend schools requiring additional assistance.

Recently, the City's Parking Enforcement Unit has implemented some new penalties for vehicles parked or stopped in violation in a school zone to help address those safety issues. Vehicles parked within 100 ft. (30m) of a school zone will be subject to increased fines starting in September.

We would like to ask for your assistance in communicating these important messages which address the safety of our children.

Enclosed please find a list of common parking violations and general parking information. Please share this information with the parents of your students. For secondary schools, please share this with the students who drive to school. In addition, we recommend reminders be posted to school bulletins, emails and newsletters. The information can be shared during school assemblies, parent meetings and during announcements. Some schools plan "field trips" for younger students to show and share the meaning of the signs. Younger students are eager to share this information with parents, grandparents and caregivers. This is especially helpful when there is a language barrier.

General inquiries and parking complaints, including on street parking, from concerned **residents/parents** 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 www.markham.ca.

Please help us Keep School Zones Safe!

Sincerely,

Trudy Jay
Acting Parking Supervisor
City of Markham

"The real penalty for not obeying traffic regulations is that you may risk the safety of children!"

Common Parking Violation Education

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 are not stopped or parked so as to block a fire hydrant, intersection, bus stop, private driveway or sidewalk.

Fire Route



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the area is a **Fire Route**. Fire Routes are the 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 he/she is stopped or parked in a Fire Route even if their engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – **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.

When 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 (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

Prohibited Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that **parking is prohibited**. A driver is **in violation** of this parking regulation if he/she has stopped the vehicle but the engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – **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.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

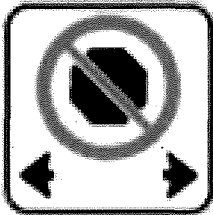
1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or,
2. Leave their vehicle (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

Accessible Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that a **parking spot is reserved for individuals with Accessible Parking Permits only**. Drivers are not permitted to park or stop their vehicle in these spots unless the driver has a **valid** Accessible Parking Permit and it is properly displayed. The permit **must** also be used by the person it was issued to. (Drivers transporting persons with accessible parking permits are subject to a tag if the permit holder is no longer in the vehicle.)

Prohibited Stopping



These signs are posted to alert drivers that **stopping is prohibited**. They are often posted on surrounding streets from schools 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.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

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

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How close to the curb should drivers park?

Drivers should park within 6 inches or 15 cm away from a curb

2. How close to an intersection can drivers park?

Drivers shall not park a motor vehicle: on a highway within 9 m (30ft) of any intersection including T intersections; on a highway within 15m (49 ft) of any signalized intersection

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

When parking their vehicle near a fire hydrant, drivers should maintain a distance of 10 feet or 3 metres away from the fire hydrant.

Common Parking Definitions

Below you will find some of our common definitions from the City's Parking Control By-law # 2005-188. The complete Parking Control By-law can be found online at the City's website.

“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.

What is AMPS and Why?

The City of Markham has implemented the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS). AMPS is a more efficient way for municipalities to enforce parking by-laws (By-law 2005-188 and 2015-97).

****NEW**** AMPS allows for penalty notices to be served in a variety of different methods. For example, penalty notices 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 penalty notices allows officers to address most of the illegally parked vehicles and not just the one or two vehicles "in the back".

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

Plan ahead-dress appropriately for the weather

Rain, snow or shine!

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.

Encourage active transportation (biking or walking)

If you have to drive, park legally and walk a block or two!

Recognize that safety precedes "convenience"

What to do when I receive a ticket?

It is important to note that Officers are encouraged to educate the public but are advised to avoid potentially confrontational situations.

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

Verbal and/or physical threats against a Provincial Offences Officer will not be tolerated. Furthermore, all officers are expected to report **ALL** of these incidents with York Regional Police.