

903.19.13 School Bus Stop Ahead Sign (S3-1) (MUTCD Section 7B.13)



S3-1

**Guidance.** The School Bus Stop Ahead (S3-1) sign should be installed in advance of locations where a school bus stops to pick up or discharge passengers and the sight distance of the bus available to other drivers is greater than the minimum sight distance and less than the maximum sight distance shown in Table 903.19.13. All attempts should be made to relocate the school bus stop to improve available sight distance and eliminate the need for the School Bus Stop Ahead (S3-1) sign.

**Table 903.19.13 Sight Distance Requirements for use of the S3-1 sign**

Posted Speed (mph)	Minimum Sight Distance (ft.)	Maximum Sight Distance (ft.)
30	300	500
35	300	500
40	300	500
45	300	500
50	300	510
55	300	560
60	300	625
65	500	700
70	500	740

**Support.** Section 304.050, RSMo §, paragraph 4, defines, by state statute the minimum allowable sight distance a school bus stop must have. The statute states "...nor shall any passengers be taken on or discharged while the vehicle is upon the road or highway proper unless the vehicle so stopped is plainly visible for at least five hundred feet in each direction to drivers of other vehicles in the case of a highway with no shoulder and a speed limit greater than 60 miles per hour and at least three hundred feet in each direction to drivers of other vehicles upon other highways". While shoulder is not defined in state statutes, for this purpose it will mean a shoulder of sufficient width and strength for a school bus to be able to safely and completely leave the traveled portion of the roadway. At those locations not meeting the requirements above, a school bus stop is not allowed.

It is not intended that these signs be used everywhere a school bus stops to pick up or discharge passengers, but for use where terrain and roadway features limit the approach sight distance and where there is no opportunity to relocate the stop to another location with adequate sight distance.

**Standard.** The requirements to use the School Bus Stop Ahead signs are:

- A. For this policy, the school bus stop shall be defined as the location where passengers wait to be picked up or are discharged.
- B. The sight distance shall be determined using a 3.5 ft. eye height and an 8 ft. object height.
- C. Each approach to the school bus stop shall be considered independently of each other, i.e. it may not be necessary to sign both approaches to the school bus stop.
- D. Placement will be

Posted Speed Limit	Typical Placement of Sign In Advance of Stop
30 mph	100 ft.
35 mph	100 ft.
40 mph	125 ft.
45 mph	175 ft.
50 mph	250 ft.
55 mph	325 ft.
60 mph	400 ft.
65 mph	475 ft.
70 mph	550 ft.

The location of school bus stops may change from year to year. It is therefore, imperative the district keep track of all School Bus Stop Ahead signs. The school districts shall provide confirmation to the district office when the school bus stops are active. This shall be done prior to the fall session. Also, whenever the school districts are aware of a school bus stop location change, they shall advise the district office as soon as possible.

**Option.** If a location has more than the minimum sight distance required by statute, as described above, but less than the values in Table 903.19.13, placement of the SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD sign may be allowed.