



Students Are Safer When Drivers Slow Down

Traffic Safety is Important to Everyone Driving the speed limit reduces risk of injury and serious harm for drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. Make a deliberate choice to slow down, focus only on driving, and consistently wear a seat belt to demonstrate you care. Traffic safety culture is driven by daily choices. Together we make the roads safer for our children and youth!

Tell the Story Connect with concerned stakeholders and decision makers to slow speeds and mobilize your community. Share your data, create care and concern, issue a call to action, and engage community members:

- ⇒ Provide and collect a [parent-teen driving agreement](#) when students apply for a school parking permit to promote safe driving expectations
- ⇒ Adopt the free peer-to-peer [Teens in the Driver Seat program](#) to reduce risks and raise cash funds for your school club.
- ⇒ Encourage drivers 16-25 to use the free [You in the Driver Seat app](#) to earn free gift card rewards for safe driving. [Provide your mailing address](#) to request app cards to share with teens.

Slower Speeds Save Lives Speeding increases danger for everyone crossing streets or driving, walking, or rolling to school. Take these steps to slow traffic and improve student safety:

- ◇ Use this data brief and the [Speed Safety Cameras Readiness Guide](#) to educate decision makers to adopt automated enforcement to slow speeds around critical places kids live, learn, play, and travel.
- ◇ [Explore lowering speeds](#) to 20 MPH on school walk routes to protect school children and families.
- ◇ Engage teens with [traffic safety contests and scholarships](#) with cash awards!
- ◇ Share [safety messages](#) in your social media to promote a traffic safety culture in school zones and other places children and youth visit in your community.



Capital High School HOSA-Future Health Professionals, Olympia, WA, receives their \$500 State Farm award for completing two *Teens in the Driver Seat* modules.

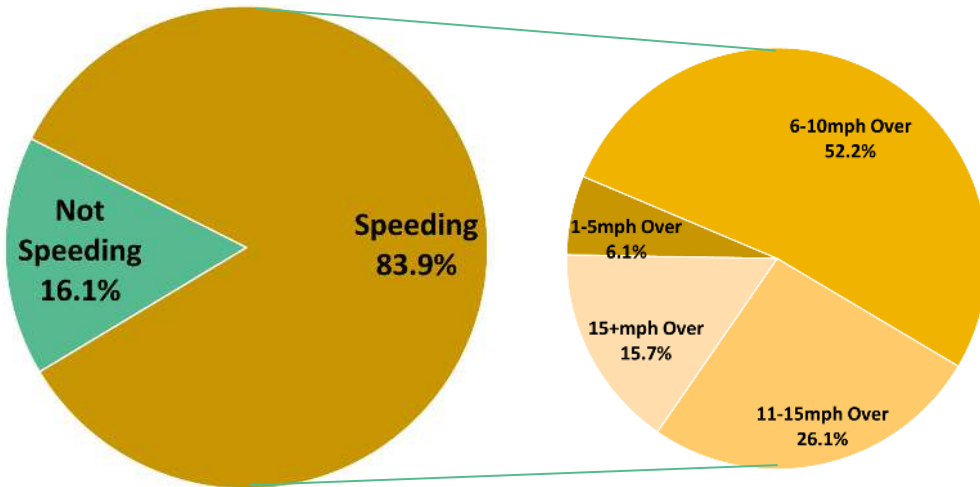
Online Resources

- ⇒ Use the [Walkability Checklist \(Spanish\)](#) to decide if your neighborhood, school walk route, or community is a friendly place to walk. Your school zone speeding data may help you take steps to make walking and riding in your community safer.
- ⇒ Talk with preteens and teens using these talking points to [Prevent Teen Pedestrian Crashes](#). How long has it been since you earned your driver’s license? Things may have changed since then.
- ⇒ Find [US Department of Transportation funding](#) to support increased safe bike and pedestrian pathways to where teens and families want to go. Use the [Let’s Get Together: A Guide for Engaging Communities and Creating Change](#) to incorporate allies outside your learning community.
- ⇒ Get to know and work with your [regional Target Zero Manager](#), a traffic safety professional interested in your community and your safety! They are willing partners and have resources to promote traffic safety for everyone.



Cougar Mountain Middle School Survey Results

January 20, 2023—Morning			How fast are SPEEDING DRIVERS going?				
Posted Speed/ Vehicle Action	Total Driver Observations (n=)	NOT Speeding Driver	Speeding Driver	Speeding 1-5 mph over	Speeding 6-10 mph over	Speeding 11-15 mph over	Speeding 15+ mph over
A.M. School Zone (20 mph)	137	16.1%	83.9% (n=115)	6.1% (n=7)	52.2% (n=60)	26.1% (n=30)	15.7% (n=18)
Entering School	45	20.0%	80.0% (n=36)	8.3% (n=3)	58.3% (n=21)	30.6% (n=11)	2.8% (n=1)
School Bus	10	20.0%	80.0% (n=8)	25.0% (n=2)	50.0% (n=4)	25.0% (n=2)	0%
Passing Through	82	13.4%	86.6% (n=71)	2.8% (n=2)	49.3% (n=35)	23.9% (n=17)	23.9% (n=17)



Survey results show:

- ⇒ The majority of drivers observed were traveling in excess of the 20 mph school zone limit.
- ⇒ Most speeding drivers were traveling 26-30 mph in the active school zone. One of every four speeding drivers were traveling 31-35 mph.
- ⇒ Nearly one of every six speeding drivers were traveling greater than 35 mph in the school zone, which is also in excess of the regular posted speed limit.
- ⇒ Ten school bus drivers were observed, and two traveled at or below the 20 mph school zone limit. None exceeded the regular posted speed limit, however two school bus drivers were traveling 31-35 mph in the active school zone.
- ⇒ Drivers entering the school were just as likely to be speeding as drivers passing through the area.

Observation Notes

Observations were collected near the front of the school on Benston Kapowsin Rd./260th St. E. when traffic was flowing. School zone signage indicates the 20 mph school zone limit when children are present. The regular posted speed limit is 35 mph. There is one marked crosswalk with a school crossing sign at the west end of the school grounds at the 50th Ave. E intersection. There are additional school crossing signs at each end of the school zone.

