



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.

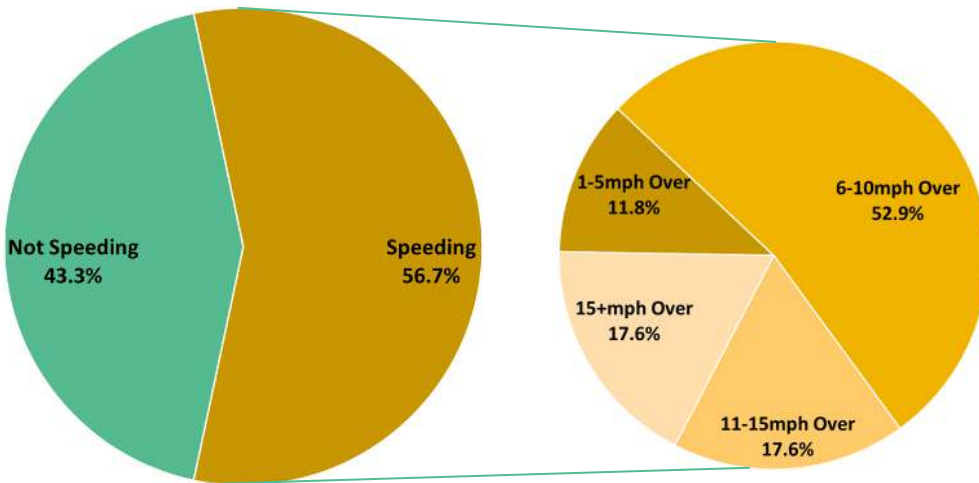
Online Resources

- ⇒ 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.



GATES High School School Survey Results

March 6, 2023—Afternoon			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
P.M. School Zone (25 mph)	30	43.3%	56.7% (n=17)	11.8% (n=2)	52.9% (n=9)	17.6% (n=3)	17.6% (n=3)
Entering School	7	28.6%	71.4% (n=5)	20.0% (n=1)	40.0% (n=2)	20.0% (n=1)	20.0% (n=1)
School Bus	4	100.0%	0.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Passing Through	19	36.8%	63.2% (n=12)	8.3% (n=1)	58.3% (n=7)	16.7% (n=2)	16.7% (n=2)



Survey results show:

- ⇒ Just over half of drivers observed were exceeding the 25 mph limit. Most speeding drivers were traveling 31-35 mph.
- ⇒ One-third of speeding drivers were traveling in excess of 35 mph. Nearly one in five speeding drivers were traveling more than 40 mph in front of these schools during afternoon release.
- ⇒ Drivers entering the school were just as likely to be speeding as drivers passing through the area.
- ⇒ Four school bus drivers were observed and all traveled at or below the 25 mph limit.
- ⇒ Traffic in this location is light, the observers began at 1:15 p.m. and observed drivers for 15 minutes past the 1:50 p.m. release time, collecting only 30 observations during the survey.

Observation Notes

Observations were collected near the front of the school on 132nd St. S. There is no school zone signage on 132nd St. S. to indicate an active school zone, despite Brookdale Elementary School also being located next to GATES High School. There are school zone signs on the east side of the elementary school on Park Ave. S. The regular posted speed was assumed to be 25 mph. The area is surrounded by residential housing. There are no sidewalks or marked crosswalks on 132nd St. S.

