

New Traffic Law at School Crossings:

Effective Jan. 1, 2016, drivers and cyclists must stop and yield the entire roadway at:

- pedestrian crossovers; and,
- school crossings and all intersections where there is a crossing guard.

Only when pedestrians and school crossing guards are safely on the sidewalk, can drivers and cyclists proceed. Cyclists must follow the same rules as drivers and may face the same fines as drivers.

This new law, part of Making Ontario's Road Safer Act, is intended to make roads safer for school children, pedestrians and school crossing guards. Pedestrians, school children and school crossing guards are among the most vulnerable road users. The new law responds to recommendations related to pedestrian safety in the Chief Coroner's Report on Pedestrian Deaths released in 2012 and also to numerous requests from municipalities and safety organizations.

The Crossing Guards of Peterborough:

The Crossing Guards of Peterborough are a team of approximately 41 guards, serving 22 schools across the city. There are currently 38 signed school crossings within the City of which 13 are located at signalized intersections and 25 are at midblock crossings in the vicinity of elementary schools. Crossing guards play an integral role in our community, working hard to ensure the safety of Peterborough's school children.

What is a school crossing?

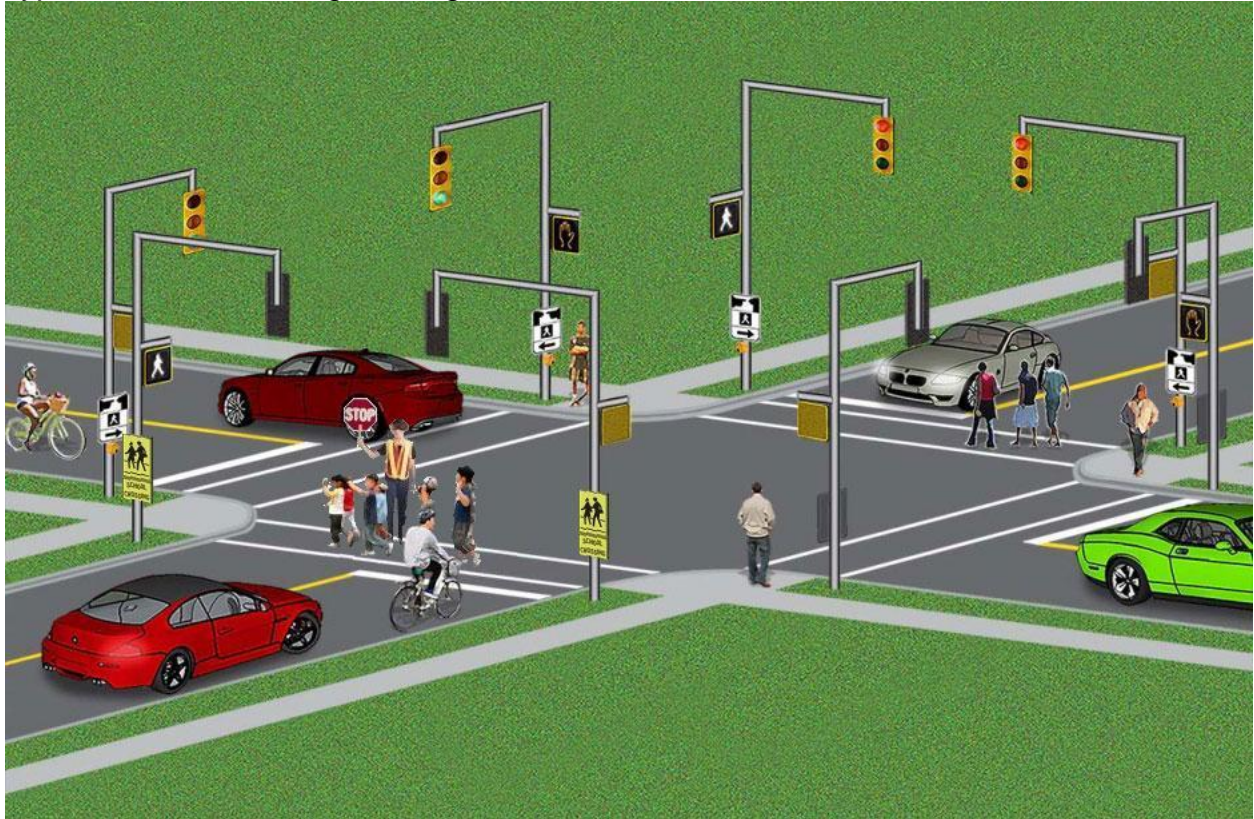
A school crossing is any pedestrian crossing where a school crossing guard is present and displaying a school crossing stop sign.

Typical Midblock School Crossing:



When the crossing guard enters the crossing, all vehicles must come to a complete stop and remain stopped until all pedestrians and the crossing guard are off the roadway before proceeding.

Typical School Crossing at a Signalized Intersection:



When the crossing guard enters the crossing at a signalized intersection, all vehicles facing a red signal must come to a complete stop and remain stopped until all pedestrians and the crossing guard are completely off the roadway before proceeding.

Drivers turning right on a red signal must stop and may only proceed when all pedestrians and the crossing guard are off the roadway and on the sidewalk.

Drivers turning left at a signalized intersection may only proceed when all pedestrians and the crossing guard are off the roadway and on the sidewalk.

This new law does not apply to regular crosswalks at intersections (with or without traffic signals or stop signs) unless a school crossing guard is present. At regular crosswalks the law has not changed and motorists must yield the right of way to pedestrians legally in the crosswalk.

What is a pedestrian crossover?

Typical Pedestrian Crossover:



Pedestrian crossovers are identified by specific signs, pavement markings and lights. They have illuminated overhead lights and/or warning signs and pedestrian push buttons. Currently there are no pedestrian crossovers within the City of Peterborough.

What are the penalties?

Under the Highway Traffic Act, failing to obey this new law could result in a fine in the range of \$150-\$500 and the loss of 3 demerit points. Fines are doubled in community safety zones.

For more information on this and other new traffic laws within the province of Ontario please visit the Ontario Ministry of Transportation website at <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/pedestrian-safety.shtml>