

CHAPTER 7415
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
SCHOOL SAFETY PATROLS

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7415.0200 PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

Subpart 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of parts 7415.0200 to 7415.0800 is to establish the method of identification and signals for school safety patrol, including equipment standards and proper usage procedures.

Subp. 2. **Scope.** The scope of parts 7415.0200 to 7415.0800 is intended to be consistent with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 126.15.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 126.15 subd 4*

7415.0300 SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL FLAG AND POLE.

Each school safety patrol flag shall meet the following standards:

A. The flag shall be blaze orange in color with an octagonal of yellow bearing the word "STOP" in black letters.

B. The flag shall be 24 inches in width at the bottom.

C. The inside edge of the flag shall be 21 inches in length.

D. The outside edge of the flag shall be 27 inches in length.

E. The octagonal center of yellow shall measure at least 9-1/2 inches from side to side and the black letters of the word "STOP" shall be in a block type at least three inches in height.

F. The letters of the word "SCHOOL" appearing above the word "STOP" shall be in block type at least 1-1/8 inches in height.

G. The letters of the word "PATROL" appearing below the word "STOP" shall be in block type at least 1-1/8 inches in height.

H. The octagon shall be affixed to the flag in such a manner that the bottom side of the octagon and the word "STOP" shall be parallel with the ground when the pole is held at a 45-degree upward angle, as illustrated in part 7415.9910.

I. The octagonal yellow field shall be centered equidistantly from the sides and bottom of the flag.

J. Both sides of the flag shall be identical.

K. Retro-reflective material may be applied to the flag if the school administrator deems such application is necessary and feasible. If reflectorized, such application must be accomplished in conformance with the following specifications:

(1) Two, three-fourths inch strips of retro-reflective silver tape shall be either pressed on or sewn on both sides of the flag.

(2) The top strip shall be placed three inches from the top (pole) edge of the flag; and the bottom strip shall be placed three inches from the bottom (opposite) edge of the flag. Both strips shall be centered equidistantly from the sides, and must be a minimum of eight inches in length.

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L. The flag shall be attached to a lightweight pole with a minimum length of five feet. Longer or extension poles may be used at crossings on unusually wide streets. Weights may be attached to the bottom of the flag to hold it in a vertical position in windy weather in order to be visible to the approaching drivers.

M. A private sponsor's decal or logo, no larger than four inches by three inches, may be affixed to the flag, but no portion of this logo may be within the octagonal yellow field.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 126.15 subd 4*

7415.0400 EQUIPMENT WORN BY PATROL MEMBER.

Subpart 1. **Sam Browne belt.** The Sam Browne belt, vest, or sash with pole socket worn by a school safety patrol member shall be made of leather, web, or plastic material. This equipment shall be worn over outer garments while on duty. Color may be white or blaze orange.

Subp. 2. **Safety patrol badge.** The school safety patrol badge may be worn by each patrol member while on duty. This badge shall be attached to the Sam Browne belt, vest, or sash in such position as to be plainly visible.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 126.15 subd 4*

7415.0500 POSITION AND PROCEDURE AT STREET INTERSECTION OR CROSSING.

A school patrol member must comply with the following procedures at street intersections and crossings:

A. The patrol member shall stand on the road shoulder or curb (not in the roadway) where traffic shall be observed approaching from all directions.

B. The patrol member shall instruct the children to remain in place until a break or lull in traffic is seen. During this time, except when actually issuing directions to the children, the patrol member shall stand erect and at attention with the flag staff resting on the ground in a vertical position to the right of the right foot. In this latter position the patrol member will more readily be observed by drivers of approaching vehicles.

C. When a lull occurs in traffic the flag shall be raised vertically upward over the patrol member's head for a period of four seconds, to alert any oncoming traffic.

D. When the lanes of the roadway are clear of traffic the patrol member shall extend the flag into the traffic lane at an angle of approximately 45 degrees upward. This will be the signal for all the children to start crossing the street. Holding the flag at a 45-degree angle will place it above the heads of the children. With two patrol members at one intersection, each member shall make a quarter turn in the direction of the oncoming traffic with at least one foot remaining on the curb or shoulder.

E. While children are crossing the street in a column, the patrol member shall keep this position while watching or facing approaching traffic.

F. If the patrol member's view of traffic is obstructed by parked vehicles, the patrol member may step into the street a sufficient distance to obtain a clear view, but not into the street beyond the parked vehicles. After the children have completed crossing the street, the patrol member shall return to the original position on the shoulder or curb.

G. Under no circumstances shall the flag ever be waved or misused in any manner.

H. There shall be at least two patrol members at each crossing. One patrol member shall operate as the sender on the side from which the children gather, and the other shall take a similar position on the opposite side of the roadway and operate as the receiver.

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I. Patrol members shall continually watch oncoming traffic while children are crossing the roadway and be constantly alert for danger. They shall stand between the children and approaching traffic with at least one foot remaining on the curb or shoulder.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 126.15 subd 4*

7415.0600 PROCEDURE AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS.

The patrol flag shall never be used at railroad crossings. The patrol member shall direct children to remain at least a distance of 20 feet from the nearest railroad track until the patrol member has completed an inspection to see if there are any approaching trains. When there are no approaching trains, the children shall be directed to cross the tracks by the patrol member who shall remain at the proper position until all have crossed.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 126.15 subd 4*

7415.0700 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PATROL PROCEDURES.

Subpart 1. **School bus crossing at railroad tracks.** Patrol members shall motion the bus across the railroad tracks in the following manner:

A. Patrol members shall take a position so as to have a clear view of the railroad track in both directions.

B. If a train is approaching the crossing, the patrol member shall not cross the tracks but shall face the bus at a safe distance from the tracks and give the signal for the bus not to proceed by holding up both hands above his or her head.

C. When the railroad track is clear and safe for crossing, the patrol member shall cross the tracks and signal, with a forward motion of an upraised arm, for the driver to proceed across the tracks to a point at least 2-1/2 bus lengths beyond the tracks, where the patrol member shall reenter the bus.

Subp. 2. **Crossing roadways from a school bus.** Safety patrol procedures for crossing roadways from a school bus are:

A. The driver of a school bus is responsible for the safety of the children, and the presence of a school bus safety patrol member in no way relieves the driver of such responsibility.

B. In directing pupils across the roadway after alighting from the bus, the patrol member shall escort the pupils to a position at least ten feet in front of the bus. When it is ascertained that there is no approaching traffic, the patrol member shall step out one pace beyond the fender line of the bus and extend the flag into the opposite lane at a 45-degree angle and direct the pupils to proceed across the roadway.

C. The patrol member shall not escort each pupil across the roadway, but shall remain at the designated post near the front of the bus.

D. Crossing the roadway behind the bus shall never be permitted.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 126.15 subd 4*

7415.0800 POLICE OFFICER, TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROL.

Subpart 1. **Traffic-controlled intersections.** At intersections where traffic is controlled by a police officer, a traffic signal, or both, the patrol member shall direct the crossing of the children in conformity with the direction of the signal or the police officer.

Subp. 2. **Intersections not regularly controlled.** At intersections where there is no regular traffic control, the traffic may be sufficiently heavy to require the special assignment of a police officer at times when children are going to and from school. When this is done, the patrol member should cooperate with police officers.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 126.15 subd 4*

