

<b>RECOMMENDED PRACTICES</b>	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS
	SECTION	WARNING SIGNS
	SUB-SECTION	

**General**

School bus turning movements at intersections or access points can be hazardous to approaching motorists. Motorists are often required to slow down to accommodate buses which may be crossing or merging at slower speeds.

Such bus manoeuvres are particularly unsafe when an intersection has sight distance restrictions.

The School Bus Entrance sign is installed in advance of such an intersection or access to warn approaching drivers about frequent and possibly unsafe school bus manoeuvres ahead.

**Standard**

A standard School Bus Entrance sign consists of a black symbol on a yellow background. The right version of the School Bus Entrance sign indicates a school bus entrance from the right side of the highway. The left version of the School Bus Entrance sign indicates a school bus entrance from the left side of the highway.



<b>WC-12-R WC-12-L</b>	<b>750 mm x 750 mm R-right, L-left</b>	
<b>Colour</b>	Symbol and Border Background	Black Yellow
<b>Sheeting</b>	ASTM, Type III or IV	

The educational School Bus Entrance tab sign, WC-12-T, may be attached below the School Bus Entrance sign to communicate in words the meaning of the school bus entrance symbol. An educational tab sign is normally needed when a new sign is first introduced in the area. After an introductory period, usually three to six months, the tab should be removed.



<b>WC-12-T</b>	<b>600 mm x 300 mm</b>	
<b>Colour</b>	Symbol and Border Background	Black Yellow
<b>Sheeting</b>	ASTM, Type III or IV	

**Guidelines for Use**

In general, a School Bus Entrance sign is installed in advance of an intersection frequently used by school buses and where school bus manoeuvres or physical conditions of the site present an uncommon degree of hazard.

The following specific criteria may be used when assessing the need for a School Bus Entrance sign.

A School Bus Entrance sign should be considered when all of the following conditions are met:

- school bus turning manoeuvres are frequent (at least twice a day)
- an intersection or access has substandard physical conditions (i.e., inadequate sight distances or sight triangle) affecting the operation of school buses and traffic in general
- an intersection has experienced safety problems related to school bus activity, as indicated by a collision history and/or stakeholder input.

**Guidelines for Placement**

A School Bus Entrance sign should be placed a distance of 300 to 350 metres in advance of a problematic intersection. Signs are usually installed for both directions of travel.

The School Bus Entrance sign is installed on the right-hand side of the highway. On divided highways and one-way roadways with visibility problems, an additional sign may be installed on the left-hand side of the highway.

**Safety Issues**

It is important to realize that warning signs will not eliminate a hazard posed by an intersection with geometric deficiencies (e.g., sight distance restrictions). Usually, a more detailed investigation will determine if the existing conditions could be improved and a hazard removed or reduced.

Factors to consider during such an investigation include:

- geometric conditions (e.g., the presence of sharp vertical or horizontal curves in the vicinity of an intersection, intersection configuration including turning radii, the presence of auxiliary lanes, etc.)
- operational conditions (e.g., turning movements at the intersection, percentage of school buses in the traffic stream)
- safety record (e.g., collisions involving buses and pedestrians).

Improvements may include:

- improvements to sight distances
- geometric improvements
- intersection lighting
- re-routing of school buses to a safer route.

**References to Standards**

<i>Highway Geometric Design Guide</i>	
Section D.4.2	Minimum Sight Triangle
Section B.2	Sight Distance