



Municipal and School Transportation Assistance

Helping a School Campus **SOAR** Through the Student Loading Process



Separate pedestrians and vehicle types

Reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts by providing sidewalks and crosswalks and designing parking lots for vehicles and pedestrians.



Organize student loading process

Identify the student loading zone and educate everyone involved with the intended process. Utilize an Advanced Loading Process and implement a Student Safety Patrol system. Inform and educate students, parents, and staff of the process and enforce that process.



Assign short term “Visitor” parking

Provide assigned parking beyond the Student Loading Zone for parents requiring additional time to load. This area would identify the location where parents can park and walk to the school building when necessary.



Restrict drivers options

Traffic engineering is very important on-campus and along nearby streets. Limiting driver's options and conflicts (possible crashes) not only reduces delays and frustration in the student loading process it also greatly improves overall traffic safety.



Municipal and School



Transportation Assistance

Addressing School Traffic Issues

- Identifying traffic and pedestrian safety concerns
- Designing more efficient traffic patterns to reduce delays
- Determining ways to reduce peak hour congestion
- Reviewing site plans for adequate student loading designs and operations
- Helping to reduce construction cost

National statistics indicate that less than half of students ride a school bus. This means most students are riding in cars, walking, or riding a bicycle.

For elementary school children, darting out into the street and walking into the path of a vehicle backing up are two of the highest cause of pedestrian/vehicle crash. To help reduce the opportunity for this type accident to occur on-campus, students should not be permitted to load in undesignated areas.

Over the years North Carolina Department of Transportation has been called upon to address traffic concerns at a school campus driveway and/or nearby roadways. In many cases the cause of these concerns have been identified as being related to school traffic operations and/or the student loading process. The Municipal and School Transportation Assistance (MSTA) is a team of engineers who specialize in solving these type traffic-related problems.

When called upon, MSTA will evaluate and provide recommendations to all public and private entities involved in planning and designing schools. By utilizing specialized analysis software, experience and training, including the MSTA School Traffic Calculator, engineers are able to more accurately determine traffic operations and appropriate designs to help maximize safety for pedestrians and motorists on the school campus and adjoining roadways.

