

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: EBH-RA

Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent for Instruction

School Safety Patrol

I. PURPOSE

To publish the guidelines for selecting and organizing school safety patrols

II. BACKGROUND

The school safety patrol facilitates the movement of student traffic on sidewalks and at street crossings. Patrols are not charged with the responsibility of directing vehicular traffic and are not termed “police” nor recognized as such. The school safety patrol plays an important role in fostering positive attitudes and in developing leadership, cooperation, and safety habits among students in the school. In addition, patrol members aid in supervising the flow of student traffic at appropriate places within the building and on the school grounds.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Appointment of Patrols

1. Qualifications

- a) Upper elementary (preferably Grades 5 and 6, except in those schools where Grade 4 is the highest)
- b) Satisfactory academic record (does not imply an “A” student)
- c) Good attendance record
- d) Dependable
- e) Industrious

- f) Cooperative
- g) Prompt
- h) Demonstrates qualities of leadership
- i) Lives near the beginning/end of the route (bus patrols)

2. Selection

The police school coordinator reports to the teacher sponsor the number of intersections to be covered and the number of patrols needed at each intersection. Patrol forces are kept as small as possible, and members are selected upon recommendation by bus operators, teachers, school administrators, or peers.

B. Parental Consent

The student and parent/guardian complete the *Application for Membership* form provided by the American Automobile Association. The principal informs the parent/guardian when a student has been selected to be a patrol. The signed consent of the parent/guardian must be on file in the school before the student is actually placed on patrol duty by the teacher sponsor.

C. Supervision

The school safety patrols operate under the immediate supervision and instruction of the principal and sponsoring teacher in cooperation with the police/school coordinator assigned to the school. The principal will provide the teacher sponsor with the location of patrol posts within the building or on school grounds to provide adequate control of student traffic in these areas at appropriate times of the day.

D. Training Program

Where possible, the police/school coordinator should conduct the training program in cooperation with the teacher sponsor. The instruction includes the fundamentals of patrol operation – where and how to stand when on post and what constitutes a sufficient gap in vehicular traffic to permit safe crossing by students, with emphasis being placed on special hazards and need for constant alertness. Patrol members will be trained in their duties before being assigned posts. Teacher sponsors, in cooperation with patrol coordinators,

should schedule and attend meetings as necessary to reinforce instruction and discuss problems.

E. Reporting Violations

The patrol officers, teacher sponsor, and the principal will develop procedures for reporting (1) a violation of pedestrian safety rules by parents or students going to and from school and (2) any accident which may occur at a patrol post.

F. Duty Hours

Duty hours for patrols are determined by the needs of the schools and established by the teacher sponsor with the approval of the principal. The schedules should be arranged so that the patrols do not miss large blocks of school time. Normally patrols should:

1. Report to duty 30 minutes before the beginning of school in the morning and should remain on duty until the last bell
2. Leave for their post two or three minutes before the bell for the noon and afternoon dismissal and remain on duty until all students have passed the patrol's post or until the last bell has sounded

Special provisions for longer absence of patrol members from class may be necessitated in schools that have noon hour kindergarten bus runs requiring patrol members to be on duty throughout this period.

G. School Bus Safety Patrol

Each bus transporting elementary students, except buses where an adult aide or bus attendant is assigned, will have a patrol and an alternate to assist the driver in advising students when it is safe to cross the street during the loading and unloading of the bus. Patrols should remain to the right of the right front fender of the bus and permit students to cross the roadway after receiving the signal from the driver.

For more complete information and sample forms for school safety patrol use, see the *Safety Handbook*.