



Fort Bend County Engineering  
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

Richard W. Stolleis, P.E.  
County Engineer

October 13, 2016

Commissioner W. A. "Andy" Meyers  
Fort Bend County Precinct 3  
22333 Grand Corner Drive  
Katy, Texas 77494

**RE: Change in school zone speed limit times throughout Katy ISD**

Dear Commissioner:

In response to the passage of HB 2610, which set a minimum number of minutes of instruction for students in public school districts, the Katy Independent School District has elected adjust the bell schedule at all campuses. As a result, the times where the school zone speed limits near each campus are in effect will be adjusted according to the attached memorandum from the KISD Office of Emergency Management.

The public hearing date for acceptance for these changes will be scheduled on the next available Commissioner's Court Agenda. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 281-633-7528 or [chris.debaillon@fortbendcountytexas.gov](mailto:chris.debaillon@fortbendcountytexas.gov).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Debaillon".

Chris Debaillon, PE, PTOE  
Assistant County Engineer - Traffic

cc: Judge Robert E. Hebert, County Judge  
Marc Grant - FBC Road & Bridge  
Brian Fields - Signage Department  
File

Attachment

Office of Emergency Management  
Katy Independent School District Police  
20370 Franz Road, Katy, Texas 77449



Chris Debaillon, PE, PTOE  
Assistant County Engineer - Traffic  
Fort Bend County  
301 Jackson Street, Richmond, Texas 77469

Sent by email.

Dear Mr. Debaillon:

I respectfully request that the posted times for secondary school zones in Katy ISD be changed. The current standard is that the school zones are from 7:00 to 8:00 and from 2:00 to 3:00 for junior and senior high schools (although this is not as consistent as the morning time sometimes being 2:15 to 3:15).

A study by my office determined that pedestrian students are often crossing these school zones before 7:00 in the morning. We would like to change the standard time to 6:40 – 7:30 since school starts at 7:25 and there is no reason to extend the school zone past the start of school. Students are dismissed from school at 2:35 so the afternoon school zones may be shortened on the front end to 2:20 with the end time remaining 3:00. The earlier school zone times will be very helpful in keeping students safe when they are approaching the school in the dark. We believe that shorter school zone periods could improve compliance and possibly positively reduce traffic congestion.

There is one location in which the school zone covers both the junior high school and a nearby elementary school – Beckendorff Junior High and Griffin Elementary. This school zone is signed as 7:00 to 8:50 and 2:15 to 4:10. We believe that the morning school zone should shift to 6:40 to 8:30 and the evening school zone could start at 2:20 and end at 4:00.

We are not recommending changes to the times for elementary schools as this would be an expense without an immediate return in improved safety and traffic flow. The operating times for elementary schools are from 8:20 to 3:40. Most are currently signed for 7:50 to 8:50 and 3:10 to 4:10. Our study found that the half hour before school in the morning is used by students with very little pedestrian traffic after 8:20 so that could be reduced, if the county feels it would improve traffic flow.

The afternoon study found that while we are making every attempt to reduce stacking on the public streets prior to dismissal the school zone starting well before dismissal seems to help with safety when parents arrive early to the car-rider lines. The study found that the school zone is rarely used by students more than 20 minutes after dismissal so shortening the school zone to 4:00 would not be expected to present a problem for pedestrian safety.

If the county feels changing elementary times is warranted, please let me know so we can begin a public information effort to inform parents and the public.

This table is a summary of the recommendations and observations made during our study.

School	School Zone Sign Location	Current Morning	Recommended AM	Current PM	Recommended PM
Beck JH	Fry Road west bound before Mason	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:15 – 3:15	2:20 – 3:00
	Fry Road east bound at flood ditch	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:15 – 3:15	2:20 – 3:00
	Church Crossing south of Fry	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:15 – 3:15	2:20 – 3:00
	Mason south bound approaching Fry	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:15 – 3:15	2:20 – 3:00
	Mason north bound approaching Fry	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:15 – 3:15	2:20 – 3:00
Beckendorff JH (Griffin)	Fry Road west bound near Lake Crossing	7:00 – 8:50	6:40 – 8:30	2:15 – 4:10	2:20 – 4:00
	Lake Crossing at Courtney Manor (2)	7:00 – 8:50	6:40 – 8:30	2:15 – 4:10	2:20 – 4:00
	Fry east bound approaching Cinco Crossing	7:00 – 8:50	6:40 – 8:30	2:15 – 4:10	2:20 – 4:00
	There is no school zone sign on the private road Avalon Bay where it enters onto Fry				
	Cinco Crossing at Fry	7:00 – 8:50	6:40 – 8:30	2:15 – 4:10	2:20 – 4:00
Cinco Ranch	Cinco Crossing south bound approaching Fry	7:00 – 8:50	6:40 – 8:30	2:15 – 4:10	2:20 – 4:00
	Bayou Terrace approaching Cinco Crossing	7:00 – 8:50	6:40 – 8:30	2:15 – 4:10	2:20 – 4:00
	These are for both the Junior and Senior High				
	Cinco Ranch Blvd. west bound from SH99	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Cinco Ranch Blvd. east bound near Lubys	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
McMeans JH	Commercial Center approaching Cinco Ranch	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Cinco Village approaching Cinco Ranch	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	The approach from the east is in Harris County				
	Westheimer Parkway approaching the school	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Seven Lakes				
Tays JH	These are for both the Junior and Senior High				
	Frost Field does not seem to have signs at Fry				
	Fry east and west bound several signs passing the high school	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Katy Gaston many signs passing the junior high and high school to north of Fry	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Recently extended on Spring Green	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
Tompkins High	Hawks Prairie	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Falcon Landing many signs crossing by the school several signs	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Gaston passing by the school several signs	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
	Greenbusch approaching Gaston	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00
Wood Creek JH	Katy-Flewellen approaching Grayson Lakes both ways – note the post speed limit is 45 but the school zone limit is 20, I believe this is too great a reduction in speed as mostly I see a 15 mph drop.	7:00 – 8:00	6:40 – 7:30	2:00 -3:00	2:20 – 3:00

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. Please, let us know when you determine if the changes will be made so we can begin informing parents and the larger community of the change in school zone times.

Sincerely,

John Bremer, Emergency Management Coordinator  
Katy Independent School District  
20370 Franz Road, Katy, Texas 77449  
(281) 396-2784 Office

Copy:

Rick J. Staigle, PE, PTOE  
First Assistant County Engineer

Thomas Gunnell, Chief Operations Officer  
Katy ISD

Robert Jinks, Chief  
Katy ISD Police