



## DDOT Best Practices for School Loading and Unloading

### Developed as part of the 2011 School Drop-off Areas Pilot Project

#### General Background

*Existing DC law (18 DCMR 2406.2):*

“The Director is authorized to have signs prohibiting parking placed on streets adjacent to any school on school days, or playgrounds between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., or for such lesser time as the Director may, in his or her discretion, establish. “

As implemented, the standard regulation is, “NO PARKING 7:00 AM TO 6:30 PM SCHOOL DAYS ONLY.” Implementation of this law varies slightly, however in most cases there are existing signs prohibiting parking adjacent to the front of school buildings.



- One purpose of this law is to maintain a fire lane so that fire trucks and other emergency vehicles have safe access when children are in the school building.
- Unlike schools in more suburban areas, many DC schools do not have sufficient space in their parking lots to accommodate emergency vehicles.

#### Parent Behaviors

In practice, vehicular drop-off and pick-up at most schools includes two behaviors:

- 1) Some parents, particularly those with younger children, park and walk their children into the school building, and
- 2) Some parents stay in their vehicle while their child(ren) exit or enter.



It is safest and most efficient if there are two separate areas to accommodate these different uses.

General Recommendation

- DDOT recommends that schools have two separate areas, 1) for short term parking and 2)an area for drop-off where parents stay in their vehicles.
DDOT recommends that areas adjacent to the school buildings be signed such that parents are not allowed to leave their vehicle.
Areas that are not adjacent to the school building could be signed for temporary parking.

Enforcement and Encouragement

There are several ways that schools can work to ensure that parents are following the rules regarding drop-off and pick-up:

- Schools can work with the local police district or DPW to issue warnings or tickets to parents who park illegally, double-park, or otherwise break the rules regarding pick-up or drop-off.
Schools can issue their own "tickets" to parents who break the rules regarding drop-off or pick-up.
Some schools work to make the desired parent behaviors more attractive, for example, by setting up Student Safety Patrol Programs...

Sign template with text: \$10 Fine (Suggested\*), This is a 15-minute parking zone, VIOLATION, Ticket #: 1, 4, 6, 2, 5, 9, Payable to School PTA



## Example Notice to Parents

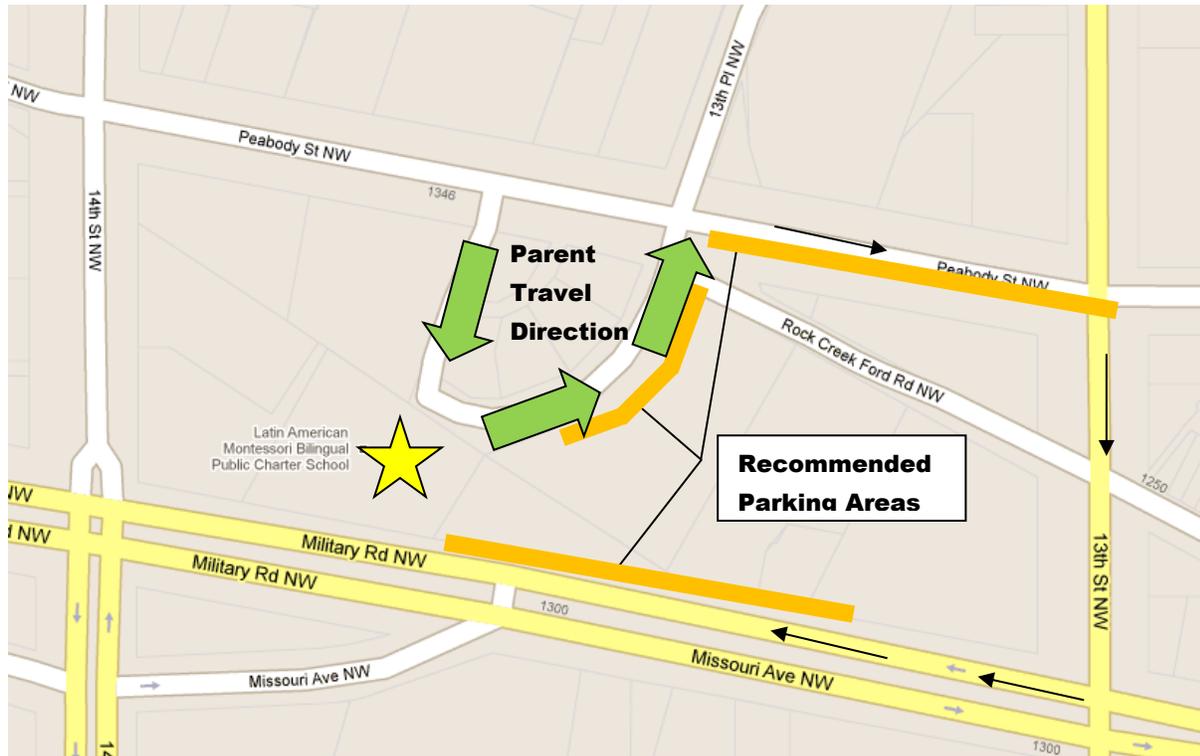
### LAMB TRAFFIC SAFETY PLAN

#### Be Safe. Be Courteous. Be Patient.

- When arriving by car all parents are required to follow a one-way traffic pattern around the school as shown on the map on the next page
  - From Peabody Street, turn right into the alley and continue to 13<sup>th</sup> Place
  - If you need to park and cannot find parking on 13<sup>th</sup> Place, turn right on Peabody Street. From there you may choose to go around the block to Missouri Avenue to continue looking for parking.
- Please do not block the crosswalk in front of the school.
- Parents may not use the school parking lot on 13<sup>th</sup> Place *for any reason*. This includes turning around, dropping off, or parking.
- When loading and unloading items or when walking your child into the school, find a legal parking space on the street.
- Do not make U-turns near the school or turn around using a private driveway.
- Do not block fire hydrants, driveways, mail boxes or trash collection receptacles.
- Obey the speed limit and cell phone laws!
- Be polite to other drivers and children.
- Teach your children to respect our neighborhood's private property.
- All pedestrians/bike riders use the crosswalks or cross at intersections only.
- After school, all students must be picked up from inside the school.
- **For students in the second grade and younger:**
  - You are required to find a legal parking space and walk your student into the school
  - When dropping off students, make sure to pull all the way up to the curb and let your children out on the school side of the street.
  - Never stop in the traffic lane to drop off or pick up anyone.
- **For students in the third grade and higher:**
  - You may choose to drop off your child by the school's main entrance on 13<sup>th</sup> Place.
  - Please do not block the crosswalk,
  - If for any reason the driver needs to exit the vehicle you are required to find a legal parking space.



***Violations of these rules and rude behavior by parents at or in the vicinity of the School are regarded as violations of School Policy. The School reserves the right to ticket and/or tow, at the owner's expense and risk, any vehicle in violation of school policies.***



**Parents, please follow the one-way traffic pattern shown here when dropping-off students**

**Ways to relieve traffic congestion near the school:**

- Students who live nearby should walk or ride bikes.
- Park near the school and walk the rest of the way.
- Ride share or use public transportation.
- Leave a few minutes early to allow plenty of time before drop-off and pick-up times. Give your children their money, school papers, and hugs and kisses before they get to school.



These rules were developed by the LAMB Safe Routes to School Team in partnership with the District Department of Transportation and are imposed for the safety of our students. The rules apply to every parent.

**Let's keep students safe during drop-off and pick-up!**