

**CITY OF TEMECULA  
AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** City Manager/City Council

**FROM:** Ron Moreno, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

**DATE:** March 24, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Approve Recommendation to Study Implementation of 20 Miles Per Hour Speed Limits Within School Zones Pursuant to Assembly Bill 382 (At the Request of Mayor Pro Tem Rahn)

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**PREPARED BY:** Erick Escobedo, Associate Traffic Engineer  
Nick Minicilli, Principal Traffic Engineer

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council direct staff to study the implementation of 20 miles per hour (mph) speed limits within school zones pursuant to Assembly Bill 382.

**BACKGROUND:** This item is brought forward at the request of Council Member Rahn during the February 10, 2026 Council meeting. The request stems from recent legislative changes at the state level aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety near schools.

Assembly Bill 382 (AB 382) provides local authorities with expanded flexibility to lower speed limits in school zones. Under current law, the default speed limit in a marked school zone (typically within 500 feet of school grounds) is 25 mph when children are present. While cities previously had the option to lower this limit to 15 or 20 mph, doing so required formal engineering and traffic study. Effective January 1, 2026, AB 382 allows cities to reduce the school zone speed limit to 20 mph, without an engineering study.

It should be noted that AB 382 stipulates that effective January 1, 2031, the default speed limit in a school zone is required to be reduced to 20 mph when any of the following apply:

1. A school speed limit sign with attached beacons states “speed limit 20 when flashing” and the beacons are flashing;
2. A school speed limit sign states “children are present” and children are present; or
3. A school speed limit sign states specific hours, which are established by the local jurisdiction.

AB 382 defines “children are present” to mean either:

1. When children are going to or leaving school; or
2. School grounds are in use by children and the standard “SCHOOL” warning sign is posted.

The definition for “children are present” does not include when children are separated from the highway by a fence, gate, or other physical barrier.

AB 382 also authorizes cities to establish a speed limit of 25 mph on a roadway when approaching from a school zone at a distance of 500 to 1,000 feet. Under current law, the 25 mph speed limit in this area approaching the school zone is allowed only if there are no more than 2 traffic lanes and the maximum posted speed limit is 30 mph immediately before and after the school zone.

The requested study supports the City’s core values, i.e., A Safe and Prepared Community and will require a multi-disciplinary review by the Public Works and Traffic Engineering departments to determine the following:

1. **School Zone Review:** Identify, review, and assess existing school zones to confirm they are compliant with California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) requirements.
2. **Signage Replacement:** Identifying every school zone speed limit sign that must be replaced and/or relocated.
3. **Striping & Pavement Markings:** Assessing the need for new or refreshing of "SLOW SCHOOL XING" pavement markings. Staff shall make this consistent across all school zones.
4. **Flashing Beacons:** Evaluating the timing and hardware upgrades needed for existing solar or hardwired flashing beacon systems to reflect the 20 mph limit.
5. **Sign Language:** Staff shall determine and recommend school zone sign language specific to whether “when children are present” should be used or if flashing beacons shall be used to alert motorists when school speed limits shall be in effect.

The following schools will be included in the proposed speed limit zone analysis:

**Elementary Schools**

- Abbey Reinke
- Redhawk
- Vintage Hills
- Vail
- Helen Hunt Jackson
- Temecula
- Ysabel Barnett
- Rancho
- Pauba Valley
- Paloma
- Crowne Hill
- Temecula Luiseno

**Middle Schools**

- Temecula
- Erle Stanley Gardner
- James L. Day
- Vail Ranch
- Margarita

**High Schools**

- Rancho Vista
- Great Oak
- Chaparral
- Temecula Valley

**Others**

- Linfield Christian
- Springs Charter
- Oak Hill Academy
- Temecula Christian
- Rancho Christian

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this recommendation other than staff time. However, the resulting study will provide a detailed cost estimate for the capital improvements (signs, paint, and beacons) required for city-wide implementation.

Staff recommend the Council directs staff study the implementation of 20 mph speed limits within school speed limit zones as part of Assembly Bill 382.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this recommendation other than staff time.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Assembly Bill 382