



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2026

Chatham County Police Department to Restart School Zone Speed Cameras August 3, 2026, with Two Week Warning Period

Chatham County, GA (July 31, 2026) – The Chatham County Police Department will re-start its School Zone Speed Cameras on August 3, 2026, and will implement a two-week warning period before fine-carrying citations are issued.

On Monday, the Chatham County Police Department announced that the camera re-start would be delayed due to a re-permitting process required by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Late Wednesday, GDOT informed law enforcement that re-permitting of existing cameras was not necessary and that operation could resume at the start of the school year.

The Chatham County Police Department will send warning citations to anyone found speeding more than 10 miles per hour during school zone times around arrival and dismissal -- as well as throughout the school day -- from August 3, 2026, until August 14, 2026. The warning will not carry any penalty and will not require any action on the part of the person cited.

The warning period only applies to citations generated by the School Zone Speed Cameras. As always, Chatham County Police Department officers will ticket any drivers they detect speeding in the school zones. Fines and penalties for those tickets are determined by the courts.

Anyone caught in violation by cameras beginning August 17, 2026, will face the fines determined by state law. Speeding more than 10 miles per hour during the reduced speed windows before and after school -- as well as during the school day -- carry a \$75 fine and a \$10 processing fee for the first offense. Subsequent offenses are subject to a \$125 fine and \$10 processing fee. Anyone cited can contest their citation in court by following the instructions on their citation. Failure to pay fines will result in the vehicle owner being unable to renew their vehicle tag until all fines are paid. The citations are sent to the registered owner of the vehicle, and do not affect driver's license points.

The Chatham County Police Department will not continue the operation of School Zone Speed cameras in the Southwest Elementary and Southwest Middle School zone. This is because the

new state law regarding School Zone Speed cameras that went into effect July 1st requires that no permit shall be issued for placement upon a highway within a school zone with four lanes that does not have a crosswalk. The crosswalk at Southwest is outside of that zone, and therefore, no longer in compliance.

The Chatham County Police Department has posted all its school zones, bell times, camera times, and active dates on its website. The information can be found here:

<https://police.chathamcountyga.gov/Crime/SpeedCameraReport>

The School Zone Speed Camera locations are also available through the Waze traffic app.

School Zone Speed Cameras do not generate citations during weekends, holidays, and summer break.

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Note to editors: This release only applies to cameras in the unincorporated areas of Chatham County. You will need to contact each individual police department to determine whether cameras will be active in their jurisdictions.

The school zones impacted by this announcement are:

Coastal Middle/Marshpoint Elementary

Georgetown K-8

Hesse K-8

May Howard Elementary

St. Andrew's

Isle of Hope K-8

St. James

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