An Educational Campaign by the New York Association for Pupil Transportation

Prepared by NYAPT through the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration under a grant from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee
Operation Safe Stop

Education and Enforcement Program

A program funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee.
What is Operation Safe Stop?

Operation Safe Stop is supported by the:

- New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee
- New York State Education Department
- New York Association for Pupil Transportation
- New York School Bus Contractors Association
- State, county & local law enforcement agencies
Our Mission:

To promote School Bus Safety through Education & Enforcement, Outreach & Partnerships.
The Problem

- Every day an estimated 50,000 motorists will illegally pass stopped school buses with their red lights flashing.
- In the past two school years, passing motorists hit and killed 2 students outside the school bus.
- In the past two school years, passing motorists injured 69 children outside their school bus.
- Passing motorists are the 2nd leading cause of student fatalities.
The Law States:

- Drivers must stop when school bus red lights are flashing.
- Even on divided, multilane highways or school grounds, drivers must stop for school bus with red lights flashing.
- Penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus range from $250-$1,000 in fines, points on your license; and/or possible imprisonment.
You should know:

- School bus drivers are required by law to use the red school bus lights when loading or unloading passengers, and must keep the red lights lighted while students are being received or discharged.

- Whenever the red school bus lights are flashing there are school children around...that means:

- All vehicles including other school buses, police, fire and ambulance vehicles must stop for the flashing red school bus lights.
The **yellow flashing lights** are activated to **warn** other motorists that the bus will be **stopping**. It is a **warning** that the bus is approaching a stop.

If the bus doesn’t move right away, there is a safety reason. Please be patient and do not move your vehicle until the **red lights** are no longer flashing.

School bus drivers are **prohibited** from moving the bus if there are students closer than 15 feet to the school bus.
As a Parent, You Should Know

School bus drivers are trained in proper procedures for loading and unloading your children. The State Education Dept. has adopted a universal crossing signal for the driver and your child to use. (see below)

Your child will be instructed by the driver to establish eye contact and remember: “I see you, you see me.”
When all is clear the driver will use the “universal crossing signal” to tell you it is safe for the student to cross.

If you will be meeting your child at the bus stop, wait on the side of the road till the door opens on, and when the driver signals, cross with your child.

Teach your child to look both ways even though the driver has given the signal.

If you/your child see an oncoming vehicle or the driver blows the horn, return to the protection of the bus.
Parents continued:

- **Encourage** the use of a backpack to eliminate the possibility of your child dropping objects and having to run back into the road and retrieve them.

- **Don’t** let your child wear dangling objects from their clothes or backpacks. Such items could get caught on the bus and cause a *serious accident*. 
What kids should know:

- **Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes early.**
- **Walk on a sidewalk or along the side of the road to get to your bus stop.**
- **Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) back from the road.**
- **Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver signals that it is “OK” to board the bus.**
- **Walk in front of the bus; never behind the bus.**
- **Be sure you can see the driver & the driver can see you. “I see you; You see me.”**
Kids continued:

- Tell the driver if you drop something beside or under the school bus. **NEVER** reach under a bus to pick up anything!

- When you need to cross, remind the driver. Walk out 10 feet in front of the bus and wait for the driver’s signal to cross.

- Remember the horn means **DANGER!** When you hear it, return to the protection of the school bus.

- Stay out of the **DANGER ZONES!**
During the ride:

- **Always** sit fully in the seat and face forward.
- **DO NOT** distract the driver.
- **NEVER** stand in a moving bus.
- Obey the driver.
- Speak in a low, classroom voice.
- **NEVER** stick anything out the windows of the school bus.
Passing motorist fatalities are the 2nd leading cause of school bus fatalities in New York State.

School bus safety is a team effort…and our school bus safety team needs the cooperation of the motoring public!

Nothing is more precious then a child’s life.

The memory of hitting or killing a child may be one you carry with you for the rest of your life.
Operation Safe Stop

- Don’t become a statistic yourself...and don’t make a child become a statistic
- Do not pass a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing.
- Please be patient at school bus stops.
Thank you for learning about what makes a safe school bus stop.

We need everyone’s help to ensure that every school bus stop is a “Safe Stop.”

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THANK YOU!

- ...on behalf of the school bus drivers who trust you to watch and stop for the Red Lights...
- ...and on Behalf of the 2.3 million children who board and leave our school buses 1,656,000,000 times in each school year...

WE THANK YOU FOR STOPPING!!