



Northern Lehigh School District School Bus Safety Program

Stop for the Bus. It's Pennsylvania State Law.

Northern Lehigh School District has partnered with BusPatrol to launch a school bus safety program in line with PA Motor Vehicle Code § 3345.1.

All district buses are now equipped with safety technology, including photo enforcement cameras to detect vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses. This safety initiative will curb dangerous motorist behavior and make the ride to and from school safer for all student riders.

According to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), school buses are unlawfully passed more than 43.5 million times each school year in the United States.

To speak to a representative about a safety violation,
contact the AlertBus Customer Contact Center at **1-800-852-7741**.

School Bus Safety - A Pervasive Issue Across Pennsylvania

Every day, 1.3 million students are transported by more than 21,000 school buses throughout Pennsylvania. * Reports suggest these buses are illegally passed more than two times per bus per day.

A 47-day study of two school buses in the state was conducted in 2019. Cameras recorded 205 illegal passes or 2.18 violations per bus per day. This is far higher than the number of citations issued by state law enforcement throughout the entire 180-day school year in 2018.

In 2020, Governor Tom Wolf signed House Bill 364 (now Act 38), allowing school districts to implement violator-funded school bus safety enforcement programs to enforce traffic laws and ensure the safety of Pennsylvania students.

*School Bus Fleet Fact Book 2020.

**Data collected from pilot programs in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Operation Safe Stop 2021

In 2021, Operation Safe Stop revealed equally alarming results. The one-day study revealed that participating school districts and law enforcement agencies reported 252 violations of the law, up from the 120 reported last year.





The initiative is held in conjunction with local and state police departments, school districts, and pupil transportation providers to conduct enforcement, raise public awareness about the consequences of improper passing of school buses, and reduce occurrences.

Read the official media announcement here: <https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/penndot-details.aspx?newsid=690>

[Learn more about Pennsylvania Operation Safe Stop here.](#)

How the BusPatrol Safety Program Works

The Northern Lehigh School District School Bus Safety Program combines education with enforcement to change motorist behavior and create a culture of awareness and responsibility around school buses.

Before the first ticket is issued, the program starts with an extensive PSA campaign. This campaign reminds motorists of school bus stopping laws and teaches children road safety tips for getting on and off the bus.

Campaign Overview

- Community awareness
- Child education
- Motorist education

This education and awareness activity continues after the program is live to continue educating our community for safer roads.

Modernizing School Buses

In addition to enforcement cameras, the Northern Lehigh School District fleet is now fully equipped with additional features to improve safety for students and drivers.

This includes:

- 360° safety cameras inside and outside the bus
- GPS tracking
- Emergency response solutions

What Happens If You Illegally Pass a Stopped School Bus in Northern Lehigh School District

All school buses that transport Northern Lehigh School District students are equipped with automated photo enforcement cameras on the side of school buses to capture violations and vehicle license plate numbers.



The violation is reviewed by law enforcement. Once approved, a notice of violation is sent to the registered vehicle owner by mail.

In Pennsylvania, a first-time violation witnessed by a camera carries a fine of \$300 and no license points.

In addition to the financial deterrent, violators learn about the potential dangers of their actions. Offenders can **call the program's toll-free number at 1-800-852-7741** and speak with a representative who can review the video evidence and help them understand the dangers of illegal passing. Services are offered in both English and Spanish.

Data shows that over 95% of drivers don't contest their ticket after seeing video evidence of their violation, and over 90% of first-time violators don't offend a second time,

Program Overview: How It Works



The diagram above represents the camera systems used in the district.

When a vehicle illegally passes a school bus with its red lights flashing, a multi-lens camera box on the side of the bus captures the violation and the car's license plate from different depths and angles. The footage, GPS, and timecode data are stored locally on an onboard digital video recorder (DVR) unique to each bus.

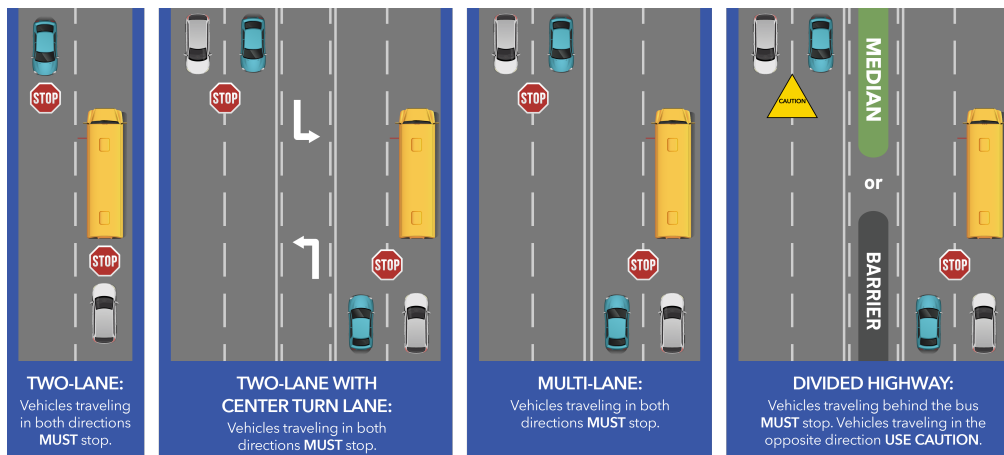


The incident data is sent via an encrypted LTE network to a secure cloud system, where it is filtered by artificial intelligence (AI) software before being reviewed by a trained safety specialist.

If the specialist determines the violation is an offense, the specialist prepares an evidence package for law enforcement. The package is built in accordance with State law, complete with video footage, license plate number, make, model, vehicle owner information, GPS location, and a timestamp of the incident.

The evidence package is sent to law enforcement partners via a secure cloud portal. Law enforcement officers review the evidence package to approve. If approved, a notice of violation is mailed to the vehicle's owner, who is legally responsible for the violation per the law. The notice is issued with a link to the AlertBus Driver Education & Payment Portal. The vehicle owner can make a payment online, through the mail, or in person at a designated location within the jurisdiction. Notices of violation can also be contested through the relevant jurisdiction's civil court system.

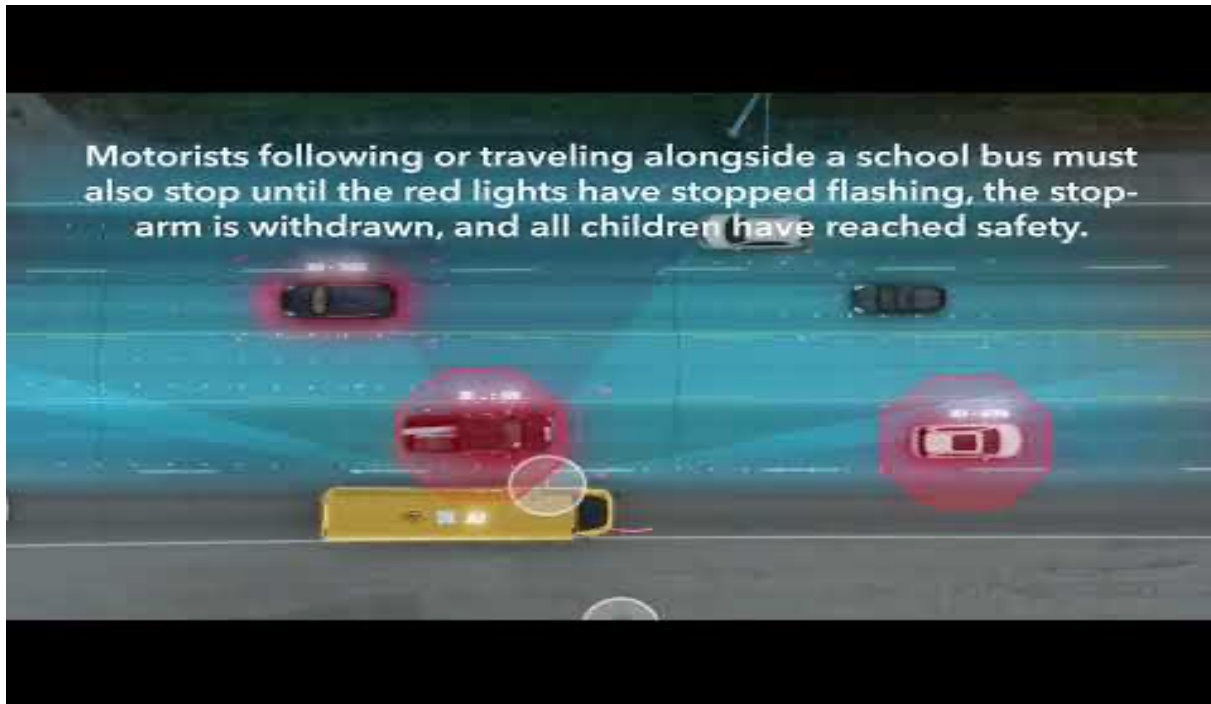
When Should I Stop for a School Bus in Pennsylvania



- Motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop sign deployed.
 - Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus, or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.
 - Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing and all children have reached safety.
 - If a physical barrier separates the roadways such as grassy medians, guide rails, or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping.
 - Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.
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Embed Video: [Pennsylvania Stopping Laws](#)



For more information on school bus safety laws, refer to [PennDOT](#).

Contact Information

To speak to a representative about a violation, contact the AlertBus Customer Contact Center toll-free support line at **1-800-852-7741**.

- The Contact Center is available Monday- Friday (8 am - 5 pm)
 - English and Spanish-speaking customer service agents are available to address your inquiries.
 - To expedite our service, please have your citation number ready when you call.

Online Access:

To view the violation video evidence online or to pay a violation by credit card, visit **www.alertbus.com** and enter your citation number (example: PA-777777) and vehicle license plate number (no dashes or spaces), as listed on your citation.



Links and Resources for More Information

- <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org/>
- <https://www.napt.org/>
- [The Law on Stop-Arm Automated Enforcement](#)
- [School Bus Stopping Law](#)
- PDFs
 - o PA School Bus Side Stop Signal Arm Enforcement Systems Program FAQ
 - o PennDOT School Bus Safety Activity Book
 - o PennDOT School Bus Stopping Law Fact Sheet
 - o Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law