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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

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For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools Announces Over 9,000 Stop-Arm Violations Issued Since New Adjudication Process through PennDOT

B-Roll of Dangerous Illegal Passings Caught on Camera Available [Here](#)

PITTSBURGH, February 28, 2025 – Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) today released a new report card showing over 9,000 stop-arm violations were approved last year by PPS law enforcement through the school bus camera safety program. The illegal school bus passings occurred from May 2024 through mid-February 2025, further highlighting the ongoing safety challenge that school and law enforcement officials are working to address to keep students safe.

A video compilation featuring a sample of the dangerous illegal school bus passings from this time period can be found [here](#).

“The law is clear, but the fact remains that the number of stop-arm violations remain far too high and happen far too often,” **said Michael McNamara, Chief Operations Officer of Pittsburgh Public Schools**. “While we’ve made tangible progress, much work remains to stop this unacceptable behavior and hold violators accountable who endanger the lives of our students.”

Since May 2024, PPS has issued 9,028 tickets since the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation began hearing cases involving motorists who wish to contest their stop-arm violations. This is a rate of 38.6 violations per weekday and .41 violations per bus per day. The back-to-school period incurred the bulk of those violations with a whopping 4,590, and the month of October had the highest amount with 1,658 illegal school bus passings.

These violations coincide with the start of a new state law that began May 2024, which is intended to streamline the adjudication process so that every Pennsylvania resident who wishes to contest their stop-arm violation may do so in a fair and expeditious manner. Like other automated enforcement programs across the state, the new administrative proceeding allows for an owner of a motor vehicle that wishes to contest their stop-arm violation to be heard by an independent hearing officer with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, or PennDOT. Additionally, motorists can now contest their violations through live-stream or video conferencing settings as opposed to traveling to and from a location.

It is against Pennsylvania state law to illegally pass a stopped school bus when the stop-arm is extended and red lights are flashing. PPS is among more than 50 school



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districts across Pennsylvania that have launched school bus safety programs that leverage safety technology to protect students on their journey to and from school.

Earlier in the school year, PPS launched a public awareness campaign to remind residents of the state law requiring motorists to stop for the school bus. This includes the “STOP for the Bus” television and radio ad campaign and yard signs displayed throughout the city, reinforcing the message. In addition to conducting educational outreach, PPS plans to utilize expenditures from the program to support school and bus safety enhancements across the District.

The school bus camera safety program equips AI-powered stop-arm cameras on every bus to detect the license plates of drivers that violate traffic laws. Every incident is reviewed by the primary police department or reviewing agency before a violation notice is issued to the offender. The technology, installation, and maintenance are provided at no cost to the school district or taxpayers.

Every day thousands of children are needlessly put at risk due to reckless and illegal driver behavior around school buses, which can have fatal and tragic consequences. According to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, school buses are passed over 45 million times per year in the United States.

State law requires that motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop-arm extended. The penalty for a first-time violation is \$300. Resources and more information about the PPS stop-arm camera safety program at pghschools.org/buspatrol.

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