

BusPatrol School Bus Safety Program – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Carlynton School District

1. What is the BusPatrol Program?

BusPatrol is a school bus safety initiative that uses automated stop-arm cameras to detect and record vehicles that illegally pass school buses while students are boarding or exiting. Violations are reviewed by law enforcement and may result in citations issued to the offending driver.

2. Why is Carlynton School District implementing this program?

The safety of our students is our top priority. Each year, thousands of motorists illegally pass stopped school buses across the country, putting children at risk. This program helps deter these violations and makes our bus stops safer.

3. Which buses will have this technology installed?

All buses that provide student transportation to and from Carlynton schools, operated by Monark Student Transportation, will be equipped with BusPatrol stop-arm camera systems.

4. How does the technology work?

When a school bus stops and its red lights and stop-arm are activated, the camera system begins recording. If a vehicle illegally passes the bus, the system captures video and license plate information. A secure evidence package is submitted to law enforcement for review and approval before a citation is issued.

5. Who reviews the violations?

Each recorded incident is reviewed and verified by local law enforcement, including police departments in Carnegie Borough, Crafton Borough, Scott Township, and Robinson Township.

6. What is the penalty for a violation?

Under Pennsylvania law, the penalty for passing a stopped school bus is a \$300 citation.

- \$250 goes to the school district,
- \$25 to the local police department, and
- \$25 to the state's School Bus Safety Grant Program.

7. How is the program funded?

The program is completely cost-free to the District. All costs for installation, equipment, maintenance, and citation processing are covered by revenue from paid violations.

8. Is this about generating revenue for the District?

No. The primary goal of the BusPatrol program is to prevent dangerous driving behavior and protect our students. It is a safety initiative, not a revenue initiative.

9. What should drivers do when they see a school bus stop?

Drivers must stop at least 10 feet away from the bus when red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. This applies to drivers in both directions, unless there is a physical barrier (like a median) separating traffic.

10. When will the program go into effect?

Following Board approval on December 2, 2025, BusPatrol anticipates a 4-6 week installation period. The system will be active shortly after installation is complete.

11. Where can I find more information?

Visit our website at www.carlynton.k12.pa.us for updates, safety reminders, and links to state law. A press release and community awareness materials will be shared prior to the program going live.