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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

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For Immediate Release

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PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOASTS EIGHT PERCENT DECLINE IN ILLEGAL SCHOOL BUS PASSINGS YEAR OVER YEAR

Videos of Dangerous Illegal Passings Caught on Camera Available [Here](#)

PITTSBURGH, PA June 17, 2026 — Pittsburgh Public Schools today released its annual School Bus Safety Report Card, revealing an eight percent decline in illegal school bus passings during the 2025-26 school year and highlighting the positive impact of ongoing efforts to improve student safety around stopped school buses.

District leaders, Pittsburgh Public Schools Police, and BusPatrol gathered alongside students, school bus drivers, and a "living school bus" display to mark the progress made during the school year and reinforce a shared commitment to protecting children.

The event also highlighted the National School Bus Safety Call to Action, a nationwide initiative aimed at reducing dangerous driving behavior around school buses and providing communities with a roadmap to improve student safety.

"Student safety is our highest responsibility, and this report card shows that our efforts are making a difference," said Michael McNamara, Chief Operations Officer for Pittsburgh Public Schools. "While we're encouraged to see illegal passings decline, every violation represents a child placed at risk. This program is helping change driver behavior, increase awareness, and create safer conditions for students traveling to and from school."

Between August 2025 and June 2026, Pittsburgh Public Schools' fleet of 243 school buses recorded 10,328 stop-arm violations approved by Pittsburgh Public Schools-trained reviewers. The data represents an average of 0.39 violations per bus per day.

Officials also reported that only 5.9 percent of violations were committed by repeat offenders since the inception of the program, indicating that most motorists alter their behavior after receiving a citation.

"Pittsburgh Public Schools police officers see firsthand the dangers students face when motorists ignore a stopped school bus," said Officer Toi Kenny of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Department of School Safety. "The decline in violations demonstrates that enforcement, education, and community awareness are working together to improve safety. Our goal is simple: every child should be able to enter and exit a school bus without fear of being struck by a passing vehicle."



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Pittsburgh Public Schools partnered with BusPatrol in 2023 to equip its school bus fleet with AI-powered school bus safety technology designed to identify motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses while children are boarding or exiting. Video evidence captured by the system is reviewed by trained personnel before a citation is issued.

The report card also identified several locations where illegal passing remains a persistent concern. The highest number of violations occurred on the 500 block of 40th Street, which recorded 251 violations during the school year. The 5500 block of Penn Avenue followed with 243 violations, while the 100 block of PA-837 recorded 207 violations.

The findings underscore the importance of continued enforcement, public education, and community engagement to reduce dangerous driving behaviors in areas where students regularly access school transportation.

"Every reduction in violations represents fewer dangerous encounters between vehicles and children," said Rick Birt, Vice President of Government Operations & Safety at BusPatrol.

"Pittsburgh's results demonstrate what can happen when school leaders, law enforcement, school bus drivers, and the community work together toward a common goal. The progress is encouraging, but the mission remains the same: ensuring every child gets to and from school safely."

The event was held in advance of Pittsburgh Public Schools' annual school bus driver celebration, recognizing the transportation professionals who play a vital role in protecting students every day. Officials noted that bus drivers serve as one of the most important components of the district's school safety system and are often the first line of defense in identifying dangerous driving behavior.

The report card also connects Pittsburgh's local progress to the broader National School Bus Safety Call to Action, which was unveiled earlier this year and includes recommendations for communities seeking to improve school bus safety, strengthen enforcement, and increase public awareness.

Each year, more than 39 million drivers illegally pass stopped school buses nationwide, creating dangerous situations for students as they enter and exit the bus. Pittsburgh Public Schools is among dozens of Pennsylvania school districts utilizing school bus safety technology to address the issue and improve compliance with state school bus stopping laws.

Pennsylvania law requires motorists traveling in both directions to stop when a school bus displays flashing red lights and an extended stop arm, except in limited circumstances involving divided highways. Violations captured through the school bus safety camera program carry a minimum civil penalty of \$300.

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