



National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services
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PRESS RELEASE

Annual NASDPTS Survey Highlights Danger of Passing School Buses

July 10, 2023

Myrtle Beach, SC – Today, at the 2023 Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the national association representing state directors of pupil transportation released the results of its eleventh survey on illegal passing of stopped school buses. In 33 states throughout the country approximately 25.8% percent of the nation’s school bus drivers participated in a one-day survey to report motorists who passed their stopped school buses. In the survey, 94,581 school bus drivers reported that 62,482 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day during the 2022-2023 school year. Adjusting for 100% of the school bus drivers in the U.S., we would have seen just over 242,000 illegal passings. Projected across a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 43.5 million violations per year among America’s motoring public. As the projected violations for the 2021-2022 school year were 41.8 million, we continue to see the problem of the illegal passing of stopped school buses increase.

“The problem of illegally passing stopped school buses continues to increase. We at the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services hope the results of this survey remind all motorists to pay attention to the yellow school bus, to follow the laws in their state, and stop to allow for the safe loading and unloading of each school bus. We encourage each state to use this information to bring attention to this critical safety issue and engage all resources necessary to ensure each child is protected,” stated NASDPTS President Mike Simmons.

This survey has been conducted annually since 2011, with the exception of 2020 and 2021 when the survey was not conducted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting school closures across the country. The survey results have brought greater attention by state and federal policy makers to the need for greater safety countermeasures. In recent years, several states have increased penalties for violations, authorized the use of photo evidence for issuing citations, or enacted other measures designed to deter this dangerous practice.

Complete information on the project, including the detailed results from the 2023 survey, and prior years, can be found at <https://www.nasdpts.org/stop-arm-violations>.

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