



WISCONSIN SCHOOL BUS ASSOCIATION
Phone: (608) 514-5470 * www.wi-sba.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Cherie Hime

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2019

608.514.5470
cherie@wi-sba.org

Wisconsin 2019 School Bus Stop Arm Violations Results

Wisconsin continues to experience 25% of motorists illegally passing a stopped school bus **each day**. Of the 1,820 Wisconsin school bus driver reports this year, a total of 460 passes were observed on one day with the majority passing from the front, on the left side, in the afternoon. This number is an increase from 2018, where there were about 24% illegal passes observed. Wisconsin has been participating in this National Survey for the past three years, averaging 25% illegal passes each school day.

The annual school year impact in Wisconsin is 82,800 illegal passes!

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) conducts this annual survey. Their report for 2019 notes: *"In 39 states throughout the country, school bus drivers recorded in a one-day snapshot how many times other motorists passed their school buses illegally while the buses were stopped displaying their flashing red lights and stop arms. In the 2019 survey, 130,963 school bus drivers reported that 95,319 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day. Throughout a 180-day school year, these sample results alone point to over 17 million violations by private motorists."*

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation statistics, school bus transportation is the safest form of transportation over all other modes. Children are 70 times safer going to and from school in a yellow school bus than by walking, biking, being driven by parents in cars, or teens driving themselves.

The stopped yellow school bus that has its red lights flashing means that a child is going to be boarding or departing the bus. WSBA urges motorists to be aware of these situations and stop for the stopped school bus to avoid a potential tragedy we hope no one experiences.

WSBA is requesting the Wisconsin legislature look into revising the fines and penalties associated with illegal passing as so many other states across the country have done. In addition, it is important that the motoring public is educated on the ramifications of illegally passing a stopped school bus.

WSBA will continue to annually collect survey statistics and share this information with enforcement, legislature, and industry.