

Operation Safe Stop Day shines a light on school bus safety

By [Al Vaughters, News 4 Reporter](#) Published: April 16, 2015, 6:19 pm Updated: April 16, 2015, 6:38 pm

(news report [WIVB4.com](#) news video)

<http://wivb.com/2015/04/16/operation-safe-stop-day-shines-a-light-on-school-bus-safety/>

GRAND ISLAND, N.Y. (WIVB) — State and local police were paying close attention to stopped school buses, on Thursday, to crack down on any drivers failing to stop for the red flashing lights.

Thursday was “Operation Safe Stop Day” in New York, and Erie County Sheriff’s deputy Sgt. Eric Kaderli reminded drivers, stopping for a school bus’s red flashing lights is the law.

“A school bus is similar to a stoplight. When you see the yellow lights flashing—begin to illuminate—that is your indication that it is time to slow down and prepare to stop for when the red lights do go on.”

Sgt. Kaderli was among state and local police who trailed school buses, making their rounds, making sure drivers were paying attention to the red flashing lights.

The latest figures show six children were killed as they getting off school buses by drivers who failed to stop, nationwide, in the 2012-2013 school year.

In New York, passing a stopped school bus, can get you up to a \$400 fine, 5 points on your drivers license, about half of the 11 points it would take to get your license suspended.

But Sgt. Kaderli says there is so much more happening when a bus stops.

“Kids getting off the school bus—some of them have younger siblings, parents, grandparents, animals that are excited to see the loved ones come home, that can rush away from the house,” he said.

For Amy Verost, a Grand Island school bus driver, motorists ignoring her flashing red lights can be frightening and infuriating.

“They ignore us, or they stare at us, and look straight through us, and wonder why—‘I’m not going to stop, I’m just going to go a little bit further’ and they blow through our reds.”

Verost has a message for any driver thinking about ignoring her flashing lights.

“You need to pay attention to our children. They are the most important things in the world to everybody. You can’t replace children, you can’t replace anybody’s child,” she said.

Last year during Operation Safe Stop, police issued nearly 1,200 traffic tickets statewide — 91 of those were handed out in Erie County.

Sgt. Kaderli also had one other tip for drivers: school buses do not turn on red, and it is illegal to go around a school bus stopped at a red light, to make a right turn. The law requires you to let the school bus proceed through the intersection before making your turn.

Drivers caught on camera ignoring school bus laws

State senator introduces bill to make it easier for people who fail to stop for school buses to be punished.

UPDATED 10:28 AM EDT Apr 10, 2014 NBC

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/drivers-caught-on-camera-ignoring-school-bus-laws/25398306>

- **ANDERSON, S.C.** —WYFF News 4 Investigates obtained nearly a dozen video clips showing how often people break the law and put children in harm's way. Each clip shows a vehicle driving around school bus that is stopped with the stop arm out. In some cases, the video shows children attempting to cross the street as the car drives past them.

Currently, it's difficult for law enforcement to prove a stop arm violation unless they see it in person. Cameras that point out the front windshield of a school bus don't always capture a vehicle's license plate number.

State Sen. Thomas Alexander, (R) Oconee County, has introduced Senate bill 718, which would place cameras next to stop arms. The cameras would take a picture of a violator's rear license plate, allowing law enforcement to track violators down and send them a ticket through the mail.

"The fact that we're seeing injuries and deaths from this tells me that we need to address it and use the latest in technology," Alexander said.

If the bill becomes law, the driver may be found liable of a civil penalty. A first violation would cost \$100, a second violation would cost \$200 and each additional violation would cost \$1,000.

"One of the best deterrents we can have is a financial penalty," Alexander said.

Alexander said he hasn't yet worked out who would pay for the cameras.

WYFF News 4 Investigates learned, on just one school day last year, 268 vehicles drove past a

stopped school bus statewide, according to a voluntary survey bus drivers submitted to the Department of Education.

In Anderson District Five alone, WYFF News 4 Investigates learned more than 50 violations have been reported since the start of this school year.

These dangerous decisions can destroy a family. WYFF News 4 Investigates spoke with Joe Kempf, whose 12 year old son Adam was killed in October of 2012. Kempf says Adam was crossing the street in Coats, N.C., about to get on a bus

that was stopped with the stop arm out, when a van traveling in the opposite direction did not stop.

"Just ignored the stop arm on the bus. Hit him going 55 mph, actually tossed him about 100 feet," Kempf said.

Kempf, who now lives in Lexington, S.C. shares his story to save other kids.

"If you see a school bus there, stop. If you're not sure if you have to stop or not, stop anyway. Protect the kids," Kempf said.

"Adam, if he were here today, would want to do something about this problem. His dreams were to make a difference," Kempf said.

According to the South Carolina Department of Education, the school bus stop law is as follows:

South Carolina law requires motorists to stop for a stopped school bus in certain situations. You must always stop when you are traveling behind a bus with its flashing amber or red lights actuated. When you are approaching a stopped school bus with flashing red lights from the opposite direction, you must stop if you are on a two-lane road. If you are on a four-lane (or more) highway or private road and meet a stopped school bus, you do not have to stop. However, you should slow down and pass with caution. After stopping for a stopped school bus, you must not proceed until the bus resumes motion or the flashing red lights have been turned off. The penalty for passing a stopped school bus is up to a \$1000 fine or up to 30 days in jail for a first offense and six points to your driving record.

Drivers ignoring school bus safety laws

<http://wwlp.com/2015/04/28/drivers-ignoring-school-bus-safety-laws/>

AGAWAM, Mass. (WWLP)— “Those are our kids you! Stop! Stop!” a frantic mother pleads with a speeding driver in a nearly tragic close call- an SUV speeds by a stopped school bus on the right side. The driver nearly missed hitting three young children that were about to step onto their school bus.

Tuesday morning’s incident happened in Washington state, but parents in western Massachusetts told 22News that they, too see drivers whipping passed stopped school buses in their own neighborhoods.

Jeanne Laizer’s nine year-old granddaughter crosses two lanes of traffic each day to get on and off the bus. She says that just the other day, she saw a driver go right around the bus’ flashing stop sign.

“He got impatient and he just passed the bus. And its a good thing the bus driver kept the door closed, because my granddaughter would have been in the middle of the street,” Laizer said.

Massachusetts state law requires all drivers to stop when a school bus has its flashing lights on and its stop sign out.

Rhonda Typowicz, mother of two school-aged children, told 22News that her kids often see drivers pass their bus illegally.

“I don’t think a lot of people realize that children are actually crossing in front of the bus. So you really shouldn’t go by the bus, because it’s kind of like an ice cream truck- you have got watch out for the kids that are coming around the back side and the front side,” Typowicz said.

In a recent [I-Team investigation](#), 22News uncovered that **from 2013-2014, more than 10,000 drivers had received warning letters from the RMV that they had been seen illegally passing a stopped bus.**

The state Department of Health and Human Services reports that the majority of injuries to do with school buses are children hit by passing cars, with children between ages 4 to 7 at the greatest risk.

<http://abc7chicago.com/archive/9444010/#videoplayer>

School bus stop danger: Drivers caught ignoring laws that keep kids safe



The ABC7 I-Team uncovered dangers at the school bus stop: drivers ignoring laws designed to keep children safe.

February 24, 2014 8:44:54 PM PST

By [Chuck Goudie](#) and Chuck Goudie and Ross Weidner

February 24, 2014 (CHICAGO) --

The ABC7 I-Team uncovered dangers at the school bus stop: drivers ignoring laws designed to keep children safe.

It's a deadly concern. Across metro Chicago every day, drivers are putting children at risk by passing stopped school buses at bus stops. Some bus drivers are fighting back with technology to catch violators in the act.

Every day on Route 45 in northwest suburban Vernon Hills, it's a rush. But as the cars whiz by, local parents say drivers blow right past stopped school buses.

"They just don't stop, kids are there, and we want them to be safe. We want everybody to be safe, we don't want anybody to get hurt," said Smita Jaisalmeria, Vernon Hills mom.

I-Team cameras caught others in the act right here in Vernon Hills. The bus pulls up and deploys the stop arm as one driver squeezes by. Then, not one, but two more drivers illegally cruise right by the stopped bus. Look at it again. The bus stops, sign out on the other side, lights flashing, and cars run through. The driver let them know.

Stop-arm violations are a problem across Chicagoland. On Route 59 in Naperville, I-Team cameras catch this driver passing the bus without stopping, just before children get off.

After a nationwide driver survey in 2013, school bus experts estimate that more than 15 million drivers pass stopped buses every school year. And the consequences can be deadly: 28 children have been hit and killed by drivers passing buses nationwide since 2008.

"Unfortunately, it takes an incident before people act," said Bob LeBlevec, Gatekeeper Systems.

Now, school bus companies and school districts are turning to technology to try to halt stop arm violations. Illinois School Bus Company in the south suburbs is installing these cameras on the sides of school buses. When the bus stops and deploys the stop arm, that turns on a surveillance video-- nabbing drivers using infrared to pick up plate images -- and even recording the date time and GPS location of the violation.

In video taken across the south suburbs, watch as these drivers zoom past the stopped bus. This driver runs through the stop sign, and just moments later, students get off.

"Kids will continue to die. If something's not done, if the behavior of drivers is not changed, children will continue to die across North America, absolutely, every day there is a problem with this, every day," said LeBlevec.

"They're just not stopping, and think of the consequences. I mean you have little kids getting off these buses and it's scary," said Deborah Wicklander, Illinois School Bus Company.

At west suburban Burlington's Central School District 301, officials catch and turn in several dozen stop-arm violators a year, and say drivers just need to slow down.

"I don't know what goes through their mind to think that they should get around a school bus, I don't understand that thinking...if that was your child, would you think twice before you sped around that? Maybe it's your grandchild, you don't know what's around that corner, if that stop arm is out, it means stop," said Rusty Lemcke, transportation director, Central School District 301.

A new law that went into effect this year makes it easier for school districts to pay for the installation of cameras on school buses, so you may see this technology throughout your neighborhood soon.

School Bus Drivers Using New Hand Signals to Improve Safety

Published Friday, August 21, 2015 at 11:49 am

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Over the last three years, five students in North Carolina have been killed and five more injured by drivers passing stopped school buses. These tragic statistics have prompted continued efforts to improve safety through tougher laws and stronger enforcement.

Starting this year, those legal remedies are being supplemented by a new system of three hand signals that bus drivers will use to tell students when it is safe to cross the road.



Jeff Lyons, transportation director for the Watauga County Schools

First, the driver will hold up his or her palm facing the student to signal “not yet.” Second, the driver gives a “thumbs up” to the student. Third, the driver uses his or her index finger to show the direction in which the child should cross the street. A graphic presentation of this signaling is available online at www.ncbussafety.org/safetylessons.

Parts of this safety policy were piloted in Washington County Schools last April. The school system’s Director of Transportation Wesley Stokes says the new system “worked immediately” to improve student safety. “Even though the kids hadn’t been trained yet, when they saw the hand signal, I saw them stop right in their tracks and wait until the student transporter signaled to cross.”

According to research conducted by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction Transportation Services section, most school bus-related student injuries and fatalities stem from drivers who disregard the school bus sign. Derek Graham, section chief of NCDPI School Transportation Services, says that the new hand signals “are an effort to help keep students safe even when motorists don’t adhere to the law.”

Jeff Lyons, transportation director for the Watauga County Schools, says that the hand signals will help, but that the key to preventing deaths and injuries is attentive and concerned drivers. “It’s never justified to put a child’s life at risk just to shave a minute off your travel time,” he commented. “These tragedies can be avoided if drivers pay attention to the stop arms and flashing red lights on the bus when it stops to pick up or unload students.”

For drivers not sufficiently motivated by student safety, there are legal and financial consequences to consider. The penalties for passing a stopped school bus include a minimum fine of \$500, and a driver who hits a child in the process will receive a fine of at least \$1,250 and will be guilty of a Class I Felony. To make sure drivers don’t escape the penalties, the NC Division of Motor Vehicles withholds the renewal of registration for drivers who don’t pay the fine. Repeat offenders will have their licenses revoked for at least a year and could permanently lose their license.

Even if no one is hurt, the expense of passing a stopped school bus doesn’t stop with the fines. A conviction for passing a stopped school bus adds 5 points to a driver’s license for a personal vehicle and 9 points for a commercial license. These extra points can cost the offender thousands of dollars in higher insurance rates over the next several years.

Thanks to advanced stop arm cameras on many school buses, it’s unlikely a driver will escape being charged and convicted for passing a stopped bus. The cameras capture clear images of the car’s driver and license tag, providing airtight evidence for prosecution.

Lyons hopes that motorists’ increased concern for students and fear of prosecution, in combination with the new hand signals, will make it safer than ever for children to use school buses. “There is no reason for any child to be hurt or killed by someone passing a stopped school bus,” said Lyons. “We urge everyone to do their part in keeping students safe.”

1. [School Bus Safety in Pennsylvania - Know the Law - Donaghue](#)

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<http://donaghuelabrum.com/2015/08/13/school-bus-safety-in-pennsylvania-know-the-law/> Aug 13, 2015 ... Check out these **school bus safety** tips as well as the Pennsylvania ... are killed or injured by **drivers** who **ignore** the **school bus stopping law**.

Feb 15, 2015 | Vote 0 0

Reckless drivers in Bowmanville ignore school bus rules

Bowmanville mother angry as they race by stopped school buses



Tania Whitehead

Ryan Pfeiffer / Metroland

BOWMANVILLE -- Tania Whitehead, pictured with her daughter, Trinity Whitehead, is upset that vehicles continually pass stopped school buses along Hwy. 2 in Bowmanville, leading to accidents. The most recent was last week. February 10, 2015.



Clarington This Week

By [Brad Andrews](#)

CLARINGTON -- Watching as cars barrel by a stopped school bus has become a familiar sight for one Clarington mother.

Tania Whitehead lives along Hwy. 2 near Maple Grove Road in Bowmanville, where a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing is meant to stop traffic. Last Thursday, Feb. 5, one car rear-ended another as a motorist stopped for a bus, a collision that led to careless driving charges for one driver and a reminder to Ms. Whitehead of an ongoing problem.

“Cars pass the school bus all the time, every day,” said Ms. Whitehead, who has two children who ride school buses in Clarington.

In June 2013, a five-car collision stemming from a driver failing to stop for a bus led to Metroland Media coverage of the issue, yet Ms. Whitehead said little has changed.

“Sometimes I’m out there and I’m yelling at drivers,” she said. “Lights on, stop sign out, kids walking down the step and they race by. That’s when I get angry.”

Ms. Whitehead won’t let her son take the bus in the morning because he’d have to cross four lanes of Hwy. 2 to do so, with no crosswalk nearby. His first day of high school she joined him for that trek across the road and called the experience of dodging traffic terrifying.

“After that I said I’d drop him off in the morning,” said Ms. Whitehead.

Recently Durham Regional Police conducted a one-week traffic blitz in Oshawa, addressing school bus safety. The effort ran from Jan. 12 to 16 and focused in and around school zones, resulting in 17 drivers being charged with not stopping for a school bus. A total of 257 tickets were issued during the week, which included speeding and distracted driving charges.

“It was alarming how many tickets were issued,” said Sergeant Bill Calder. “You see the stop sign, the flashing red lights, you’re supposed to stop.”

Officers found that many infractions occurred on multi-lane roads, where students would be crossing four or more lanes. In some instances, drivers approaching from the opposite direction were unaware of their responsibility to stop, police said.

According to provincial law, drivers must stop whenever they approach a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing, regardless of whether they are behind the bus or approaching it from the front. The school bus law applies on any road, no matter how many lanes or what the speed limit. Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just within school hours.

If a driver doesn't stop, they can be fined between \$400 to \$2,000 and get six demerit points for a first offence. A second conviction within five years means a fine of \$1,000 to \$4,000 and six demerit points. A driver could also go to jail for up to six months.

Beyond penalties, Sgt. Calder stressed the need to be concerned for student safety.

“At the end of the day it's about kids getting off the bus and getting home safely,” he said.

Joel Sloggett, chief administrative officer of Student Transportation Services of Central **Ontario**, oversees school buses operating in Clarington.

“From time to time throughout the year we do get reports of cars going through,” said Mr. Sloggett. “When the lights are flashing the bus is obviously going to stop.

“Most of the time it's an accident (when drivers disobey), nobody wants to do this.”

He implored the public to help when they notice someone failing to stop for a bus by getting all the information they can and reporting it to police. Every detail people can write down helps; most importantly the licence plate number, description of the car and driver, he said.

“Kids could seriously get hurt here, pay attention and stop,” said Mr. Sloggett.

In regard to Ms. Whitehead's neighbourhood, he adds, “I know that section of Hwy. 2; people treat it like a race course.”

Ms. Whitehead said there has been a police presence in her area before, with an officer coming by one morning and ticketing those who passed the bus. It was not a lasting solution.

“Of course everyone stops when the cops are out there,” she said. “The next day four cars blew right by the bus.”

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION RULES ON STOPPING FOR SCHOOL BUSES

- Stop whenever approaching a stopped school bus with its upper alternating red lights flashing, whether approaching from behind or from the front.
- When approaching the bus from the front, stop at a safe distance for children to get off the bus.
- If coming from behind the bus, stop at least 20 metres away.

- On a road with a median strip, only vehicles coming from behind the bus must stop. • The school bus law must be obeyed on any road, no matter how many lanes or what the speed limit.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just within school hours.
- Remain stopped until the stop sign arm folds away and all lights stop flashing.
- Do not go until the bus moves or the lights have stopped flashing.

HOW THIS IMPACTS YOU

A recent traffic blitz by police and an accident in Bowmanville indicate continued ignorance or disrespect of the law to stop for school buses with red flashing lights engaged.

Reporter Brad Andrews covers the Municipality of Clarington for Metroland Media Group's Durham Region Division

Florida motorists disregarding school bus safety laws

State survey gauges illegal passing as students board and step off.

By [Teresa Stepzinski](#) Mon, Oct 17, 2011 @ 12:00 am | updated Mon, Oct 17, 2011 @ 3:31 pm



WILL DICKEY/The Times-Union

Landon Middle School students board school buses at the end of their day Wednesday.

Bill Bowen drives a school bus, not a race car. All too often, however, Bowen and the Duval County students riding his bus find themselves caught up in a situation more typical of NASCAR.

"You'll be stopped to let a student get on or off, and you'll have somebody do a Dale Earnhardt on you," said Bowen, a driver and trainer for Durham School Services. "They'll come up fast and go right around you."

Recently, Bowen was stopped in a parking lot to let a student off the bus.

"A lady in a black BMW came up and passed on my right. She missed my kid by about 3 or 4 feet. It's amazing what some of these motorists do," the 10-year veteran bus driver said.

Whether impatient, inattentive or ignorant of the law, motorists routinely illegally pass school buses stopped to pick up or drop off students, Bowen and his counterparts said.

"It's an everyday problem," said Bill Stepnick, safety supervisor for Durham, which transports nearly 11,000 Duval County students daily during the school week.

Today marks the beginning of National School Bus Safety Week, which among other things is intended to raise public awareness of school bus safety laws.

Read [more education news from across the First Coast](#)

By law, Florida drivers must stop upon approaching any school bus with its flashing red lights activated and its stop signs extended.

There are two exceptions: when a motorist is traveling in the opposite direction of the school bus and is on a divided highway with an unpaved space of at least 5 feet, or is traveling on a divided highway with a raised median or a physical barrier.

Florida drivers illegally pass school buses nearly 2 million times each year, officials say.

They can be fined up to \$500, cited for a moving violation, receive four points against their license and be required to complete a driver course.

State law requires law enforcement to witness the offense before they charge the violator.

"We'll get complaints about illegal passing and send a deputy out to monitor the bus route, and they always come back without seeing the violation," said Sgt. Glenn Wood of the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Such violations aren't prevalent in Clay or St. Johns counties. But **Jacksonville police have issued 132 citations so far this year.**

Police and sheriff's deputies keep a lookout for school bus safety violators as part of their normal patrols. Responding to bus driver complaints, they also will stake out a route or bus stop to try and catch the offenders.

Last year, a Duval County student was hit by a car while crossing to a school bus. The bus was stopped with its lights activated and both its stop sign and crossing arm were out, said Leslee Russell, the school system's transportation director.

The driver who hit the student was cited. The student recovered.

No such injuries nor any fatalities have been reported in neighboring counties. Close calls, however, can be a daily occurrence in Duval and other counties.

In a one-day survey on March 2, public school bus drivers statewide reported about 20,040 motorists illegally passed school buses, according to the Florida Department of Education.

That's no surprise to Stepnick, Bowen and other drivers at Durham School Services, the largest school bus contractor in Duval County.

"I know people are in a hurry to get to work or go home. But I just can't fathom how somebody can blow past a stopped school bus," Stepnick said.

In many cases motorists either aren't paying attention or don't understand the law, said Sgt. Chuck Mulligan of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, who served in its traffic enforcement unit for seven years.

Regardless, the end result can be tragic.

"They are putting children in danger," Stepnick said.

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News Release

October 16, 2014

Obey the Law: Don't Pass Stopped School Buses

AUSTIN – In conjunction with National School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 20-24), the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding drivers that it is illegal to pass any school bus that is stopped and operating a visual signal – either flashing red lights or a stop sign. During this time, DPS Highway Patrol troopers will be on the lookout for drivers who disregard the law.

“Children are particularly vulnerable when entering or exiting a school bus, and drivers who refuse to yield to a stopped school bus put our children in harm’s way,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “DPS will not tolerate those who ignore the law, and we urge drivers to make safety a priority when they encounter school buses.”

During National School Bus Safety Week, troopers in many areas will be riding on or following school buses to catch motorists who disregard the law. Troopers will also be patrolling areas where school buses pick up and drop off students, watching for motorists violating the school bus law. Drivers who violate the law could face fines as much as \$1,250.

In 2013, Texas Highway Patrol troopers issued 566 tickets for passing a stopped school bus.

According to the Texas Education Agency, more than 40,000 school buses transport 1.5 million Texas children every school day.

According to Texas statute, a driver – traveling in either direction – must stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped and operating a visual signal. The driver may not proceed until one of the following occurs: the school bus resumes motion; the operator is signaled by the bus driver to proceed; or the visual signal is no longer activated.

If a road is divided only by a left-turning lane, drivers on both sides of the roadway must stop for school buses with alternating red flashing lights activated. However, if the lanes are separated by an intervening space or physical barrier, only motorists going in the same direction as the bus are required to stop.

(As a reminder, school buses, by law, must stop at all railroad crossings.)

Here are several safety measures drivers can take to help keep children safer:

- When driving in school zones, watch out for student pedestrians.
- Slow down and watch for children congregating near bus stops.
- Look for children who might dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Know and obey the laws concerning traffic and school buses in Texas.

(HQ 2014-118)



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[PrevNext](#)

Drivers Caught Ignoring School Bus Laws

By **Rebekah Rae**. CREATED Aug 27, 2015
KMTV Omaha, Nebraska

BELLEVUE, Neb. (KMTV) It's a tool designed to keep your children safe when they board the school bus. Stop arms and flashing lights.

Dangerous drivers are caught on camera, over and over. "In 13 days of school, we've had 21 violations that our drivers have reported," said Bellevue schools director of transportation Rich Casey.

Drivers ignore the school bus stop arm and refuse to stop for children. Casey says it's likely the number of violations is double. "On the five buses that have the video cameras, we've captured 11 violations, six of those have been forwarded to the Bellevue police department for action."

The most recent violation was recorded Thursday morning.

"It doesn't surprise us, It happens all the time," said Bellevue police Captain David Stukenholtz.

It also doesn't surprise drivers we spoke with. "It doesn't shock me any. People do what they want when they drive," said Adam Cupp.

"Sometimes I don't even think they understand what they're suppose to do," said driver Wanda Hike.

Casey says the rules are simple. If drivers see a stopped bus, yellow flashing lights and a stop arm, treat that sign as any stop sign and don't proceed until those lights turn off.

"A lot of times the kids aren't looking for (cars) and the (bus) drivers are not looking for (cars) and that's when children get hurt or killed," said Casey.

Ten school buses in the Bellevue fleet are equipped with cameras. Five of those will be in operation by next week.

If drivers fail to stop, their license plate is recorded and sent to the police department. The fine may be up to \$500. That's higher than running a stop sign. The Bellevue police department has not issued any citations at this point. Officers have given warnings.

Kanawha School Officials Say Amount Of People Ignoring School Bus Safety Laws Out Of Control

Updated: Wed, Sep 23 2015, 07:01 PM | Jeffrey A. Morris

1. [Kanawha School Officials Say Amount Of People Ignoring ... - WCHS](http://www.wchstv.com/news/features/eyewitness-news/stories/Kanawha-School-Officials-Say-Amount-Of-People-Ignoring-School-Bus-Safety-Laws-Out-Of-Control-209112.shtml)

http://www.wchstv.com/news/features/eyewitness-news/stories/Kanawha-School-Officials-Say-Amount-Of-People-Ignoring-School-Bus-Safety-Laws-Out-Of-Control-209112.shtml Sep 23, 2015 ... CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- **Kanawha** County school bus drivers met Wednesday morning to tackle an alarming problem in the region. **Officials**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Kanawha County school bus drivers met Wednesday morning to tackle an alarming problem in the region.

Officials said the amount of people ignoring school bus safety laws is out of control.

At the meeting, bus drivers looked at video of people ignoring extended arms and zooming past children. They discussed the extended stop arms installed on 10 buses throughout the county. Already this year, six of those extended stop signs have been hit.

Video after video showed waste management trucks, coal trucks, even state vans ignoring stopped buses. In one instance, the bus was stopped in a school zone at Kanawha City Elementary when the extended stop arm was hit.

Bus drivers said they want tougher punishment for violators and they don't want until the next legislative session.

"Right now with the way this law is, you have to physically identify the driver," bus driver Rod Stapler said. "You cannot really see who is driving because you're paying more attention to your kids than these people."

Bus driver Angie Perry said to avoid the situation "all it takes is paying attention. People don't realize that, that one second of not being focused, you can kill a child."