



WISCONSIN SCHOOL BUS ASSOCIATION  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Wisconsin Illegal School Bus Passing Rises to 40%

Wisconsin continues to experience illegal passing of school buses. The survey results from this year showed an increase from 25% in 2019, to now 40% in 2022. This one-day survey demonstrates the increase of illegal passing **each school day**. Of the 898 Wisconsin school bus driver reports this year, a total of 365 passes were observed on one day with the majority passing from the front, on the left side. This increase of 15% from 2019, is of great concern to the school bus community where the nation's average passing rate is now **69%**. There is no excuse for endangering children's lives and immediate action needs to take place to ensure their safety.

#### *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 2022 notes: *"In 34 states, over 22% of the nation's school bus drivers participated in the one-day survey. 79,859 school bus drivers reported that 51,593 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day during the 2021-22 school year. Given the lower number of drivers participating this year versus our 2019 survey, we think it is helpful to compare the years. Adjusting for 100% of the school bus drivers in the U.S., we would have seen just over 232,000 illegal passings in both 2019 and 2022. Throughout a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 41.8 million violations per year among America's motoring public."*

*"These numbers, when adjusted for 100% of the school bus drivers across the country, show that unfortunately illegal passings of stopped school buses are at an epidemic level. Too often the safety of our nation's children is put into question simply because motorists are either not paying attention or are in a hurry. This is simply unacceptable,"*

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 also requesting School Districts to have conversations with students on the dangers outside the bus and remind them to always pay attention to the traffic around the bus.

WSBA will continue to work with law enforcement and communities to reduce the threat of safety these numbers pose to Wisconsin's school children.