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# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Operation Safe Stop Week September 23-27

Operation Safe Stop Week seeks to promote school bus safety through education and enforcement efforts. Operation Safe Stop is a cooperative project supported by the Wisconsin State Patrol and Wisconsin School Bus Association. The goal of Operation Safe Stop Week is to proactively educate motorists about the dangers of passing stopped school buses.

In Wisconsin, there are over 12,000 school buses that transport more than 750,000 students to and from school **each school day** and travel nearly 70 million miles a year.

**From this year's survey, an estimated 38% of motor vehicles illegally pass Wisconsin school buses every day.**

Commonly, drivers are not fully alert and pass a stopped school bus. This is a very dangerous situation for the children, especially the younger ones who may not be watching traffic as closely as they should.

**Motorists are required to stop at least 20 feet from a stopped school bus that is displaying flashing red lights and stop arm. Each time a motorist violates the school bus stop law, he or she creates a real hazard for the students who are boarding or leaving the bus.**

Wisconsin uses an 8-light school bus warning system. The alternately flashing **yellow** lights mean **CAUTION** to other motorists because the bus is preparing to stop. The flashing **red** lights and stop arm mean **STOP**.



### REMEMBER:

**Yellow lights** mean the bus is going to stop. Motorists Slow down!

**Red lights** mean students are getting on or off the bus.

**STOP! STOP! STOP!**

**WSBA created a school bus safety video highlighting awareness of the dangers of inattentive driving. Download and share the video with the media and everyone you know.**

*For more information contact the WSBA office, any local bus contracting company, or school district.*

**Wisconsin School Bus Association**

*Founded in 1948, WSBA promotes and encourages safety in school bus transportation in Wisconsin. The association represents more than 200 operator companies, school districts, and affiliated service companies.*