



WISCONSIN SCHOOL BUS ASSOCIATION
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PRESS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Illegal School Bus Passing Shows Further Reduction to 22% in 2026

Thank you to the school districts and transportation companies that participated in this critical one-day survey. There were more drivers who participated this year providing greater oversight of the issue. In 2025, Wisconsin saw a slight decrease in the illegal school bus passing rate, and after receiving data for 2026, the passing rate has shown further reduction, headed in the right direction. The **2026** average illegal passing rate is now **22%**, showing improvement from 2025 when it was 35%.

Of the 1,200 Wisconsin school bus driver reports this year, a total of 258 illegal passes were observed in one day, which brings the average illegal passing rate to 22%. Adjusting for 100% of Wisconsin licensed school bus drivers, the **annual school year impact** is at least **466,074 illegal passes in a 180-day school year**. These occurrences happen in the morning 55% of the time. The majority of vehicles pass the school bus stop sign as they approach the bus head on. WSBA is pleased to see the numbers decreasing, however the goal is zero and there remains **no excuse for endangering children's lives**.

The annual school year impact in Wisconsin is at least 466,074 illegal passes

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) conducts this annual survey. Their report for 2026 notes: *"In 39 states, approximately 26.2% of the nation's school bus drivers participated in the one-day survey. In the survey, 101,334 school bus drivers reported that 56,024 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day during the 2025-26 school year. Adjusting for 100% of the school bus drivers in the U.S., we would have seen just over 213,800 illegal passings. Projected across a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 38.4 million violations per year among America's motoring public."*

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 School Districts to continue holding conversations with students on the dangers outside the bus and remind them to always pay attention to the traffic around the bus. **WSBA has created school bus safety videos available on the website and YouTube channel. Please share these videos and spread the word about the dangers of illegally passing a stopped school 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 and advocate for changes in the law that bring awareness to inattentive driving.

Pay Attention and  for the Stopped School Bus with Red Lights Flashing

