



WISCONSIN SCHOOL BUS ASSOCIATION  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Wisconsin Illegal School Bus Passing Sees Slight Decrease to 35% in 2025

Thank you to the school districts and transportation companies that participated in this critical one-day survey. Wisconsin has seen a slight decrease in illegal school bus passing through the 2025 survey received by members this year. In **2024**, the average rate was **38%**, and with the new data received, the average **decreased to 35%**.

The continued disregard of the law to stop for a stopped school bus with red lights flashing is disheartening and increases the danger to children's lives every school day. **Of the 900 Wisconsin school bus driver reports this year, a total of 316 illegal passes were observed in one day, which shows that the average illegal passing rate is around 35%.** Adjusting for 100% of Wisconsin licensed school bus drivers, the **annual school year impact** is at least **861,336 illegal passes in a 180-day school year**. These occurrences happen both in the morning and afternoon routes with the majority of vehicles passing a stop sign as they approach the bus head on. **There is no excuse for endangering children's lives.**

#### *The annual school year impact in Wisconsin is at least 861,336 illegal passes*

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) conducts this annual survey. Their report for 2025 notes: *"In 36 states, approximately 31% of the nation's school bus drivers participated in the one-day survey. In the survey, 114,239 school bus drivers reported that 67,258 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day during the 2024-25 school year. Adjusting for 100% of the school bus drivers in the U.S., we would have seen just over 218,000 illegal passings. Projected across a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 39.3 million violations per year among America's motoring public."*

*"...the illegal passing of stopped school buses continues to be the greatest safety danger to children."*

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 have 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

