



WISCONSIN SCHOOL BUS ASSOCIATION  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Wisconsin Illegal School Bus Passing Averages 30% in 2023

Almost one in three drivers ignore the law to stop for a stopped school bus with red lights flashing and endanger children's lives every school day. The survey results showed an improvement from 2022, however the continued disregard for children's safety remains at an alarming rate of almost one-third of the motoring public. This one-day survey demonstrates the number of **illegal passings each school day**. Of the 977 Wisconsin school bus driver reports this year, a total of 286 passes were observed on one day, giving an average illegal passing rate of 29.3%. Adjusting for 100% of Wisconsin licensed school bus drivers, the annual school year impact is at least 627,000 illegal passings 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 and immediate action needs to take place to ensure their safety.

***The annual school year impact in Wisconsin is at least 627,000 illegal passes!***

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) conducts this annual survey. Their report for 2023 notes: *"In 34 states, approximately 25.8% of the nation's school bus drivers participated in the one-day survey. In the survey, 94,581 school bus drivers reported that 62,482 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day during the 2022-23 school year. Adjusting for 100% of the school bus drivers in the U.S., we would have seen just over 242,000 illegal passings. Projected across a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 43.5 million violations per year among America's motoring public."*

*"..this survey remind all motorists to pay attention to the yellow school bus, to follow the laws in their state, and stop to allow for the safe loading and unloading of each school bus."*

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.

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

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



*"Supporting Safe School Bus Operations in Wisconsin"*