

## School Bus Reminders

- When stopping for a school bus, give them some space. Most states require a minimum of 20 feet between your vehicle and the school bus.
- Red, flashing lights mean do not pass. Additional indicators include deployed stop signs, and swing arms.
- Yellow, flashing lights mean the bus is preparing to stop; you should slow down and prepare to stop too.
- Four-way flashing hazard lights mean to proceed with caution and pass only if it is safe to do so. School busses can use these in a variety of situations, especially when parked and waiting.
- School busses stop at all railroad crossings; it is illegal to pass a school bus stopped at a railroad crossing



# Back to School!

School summers are coming to a close, and most systems are gearing up for the start of the new year; some districts have even started already! This means that there is going to be an increase in early morning traffic, more school buses on the roads, and school zone speed limits and laws being re-instated. Let's review some best practices to keep everyone safe, and out of trouble.

**Additional Traffic** – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that just over half of students (25 million) ride the bus to school. That means the other half drive, walk or use some form of private transportation. That's a large increase in traffic all at once, and at the same time as most people trying to get to work.

Give yourself some extra time in the mornings, be patient, and be observant.

**School Zones** – Crosswalks, crossing guards, speed bumps, pedestrians, reduced speed limits, traffic, school busses, and parents in a rush are all items that require additional attention. Make sure to slow down and pay attention. Give yourself plenty of room between your vehicle and others. Additionally, many cities are photo-enforcing the school zone speed limit. If the lights are flashing, double-check your speed.

**School Buses** – School buses are designed to be extremely safe. However, when children need to load or unload, they become slightly less safe. That's because the children now have to contend with the unexpected actions of other vehicles. For this reason, every state has strict laws concerning vehicle operation around school buses. The main one? **Never** pass a school bus that is stopped with red flashing lights. They are picking up or dropping off children. They're easy to spot: flashing red lights, extended stop arms, deployed stop signs and cameras watching every vehicle in their vicinity. As a reminder, fines for illegally passing a school bus can reach up to \$1000. Use the illustration below as a reminder of when to stop, and when it is okay to keep driving.



### Safety - Know what the lights mean!

**RED LIGHTS mean:**  
**ALL DIRECTIONS MUST STOP!**  
(unless the bus is on the other side of a median OR on the other side of a 4-lane highway)

**YELLOW LIGHTS mean:**  
Slow down, bus is about to stop!

**Violation: Up to \$1,000 & Points**

State Code 304.050