



# MEDIA RELEASE



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04/16/2025



## 2025 Operation Safe Stop April 24<sup>th</sup>

**Operation Safe Stop** is a statewide education and enforcement initiative that targets school bus safety. Did you know that an estimated 50,000 motor vehicles illegally pass NYS school buses every day!

### The Law Says:

- It is illegal - and very dangerous - to pass a stopped school bus when the large red lights located on top of the bus are flashing. Flashing lights mean the bus is picking up or discharging students.
- You must stop whether you are approaching the school bus from the front or overtaking it from the rear.
- You must always stop for flashing red lights, even on divided and multilane highways and on school grounds.
- The first-time fine for illegally passing a school bus is a \$250 to \$400 fine, 5 points on your license, and/or possibly 30 days in jail.
- Worse yet, the memory of hitting or killing a child may be one you carry for the rest of your life!

### Penalties for Passing a Stopped School Bus:

By Conviction	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine	Possible Imprisonment
1 <sup>st</sup> Conviction	\$250.00	\$400.00	Up to 30 Days
2 <sup>nd</sup> Conviction (within 3 years)	\$600.00	\$750.00	Up to 180 Days
3 <sup>rd</sup> or subsequent Convictions (within 3 years)	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	Up to 180 days

### Remember!

- **Yellow Light** means the bus is going to stop. **Slow Down!**
- **Red lights** mean students are getting on or off the bus. **STOP! STOP! STOP!**
- **The goal of Operation Safe Stop is to proactively educate motorists about the dangers of passing stopped school buses.**

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