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March 15, 2019

TO: School District Transportation Administrators
SUBJECT: School Bus Illegal Passing Survey
FROM: Pete Japikse, Ohio School Boards Association

With the knowledge that motorists nationwide are violating school bus stopping laws and harming children, many are asking what we can do to help increase safety at the bus stop. These accidents have reminded us of the vulnerability of our students when they are outside the bus in the “danger zone.”

Studies have been done nationally about the frequency of motorists violating school bus red lights, but there is not much recent data documenting the problem in Ohio. We are conducting a survey to document the problem here and will use the data to help improve safety countermeasures at the state and national level.

We are requesting your assistance in this important project.

On **Wednesday, March 20**, please have your district’s school bus operators observe and report any instances of motorists illegally passing their school buses, using the provided form. *Even drivers who have no “pass-by’s” on the day of the survey should turn in the form so that we can get accurate data on how many pass-by’s occur per day per bus.*

Please download the survey form from the following link: [redlight violator form](#).

Please instruct drivers to pay particular attention to the instructions and safety precautions. As always, their primary duty is to the safety of their students. Please have your drivers pay particular attention to the bottom of the form where they are instructed to *“report only illegal passes that occur while the bus driver is stopped with red warning lights flashing and stop arm(s) deployed in full compliance with our state training and procedures.”*

Included in the forms link above is a district summary report. Please collect your driver's results and report them no later than March 29 by filling out the summary sheet and returning to the Ohio School Boards Association.

Transportation Office
Ohio School Boards Association
8050 North High Street, Suite 100

Columbus, Ohio 43235

You may scan and email the forms back if that is more convenient.

Email to Schoolbus@Ohioschoolboards.org

If you are unable to complete this on March 20th, please consider an alternate date at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your help with this very important initiative.

Ohio School Boards Association
8050 N High St, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43235

<http://www.ohioschoolboards.org>

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