**Ohio School Boards Association**

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**Ohio schools and communities focus on school bus safety Oct. 18-22**

Every day in Ohio, more than 15,000 school buses transport 800,000 children between home and school. School bus drivers, parents and school officials constantly work to maximize the safety of these students; however, they are at increasing risk when outside of the bus at their bus stops.

This year’s National School Bus Safety Week campaign, Oct. 18-22, focuses on reminding the community that when school buses are stopped with their red lights on, traffic must stop around the bus to safeguard children. This year’s theme is ***1 Bus + 1 Driver = a BIG Impact on Education.*** OSBA has compiled several resources for Bus Safety Week at https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/national-school-bus-safety-week.

Anytime a school bus is stopped, children leave the safety of the sidewalk and attempt to board their bus. Some children have to cross the street at their bus stop. Bus drivers are trained to watch traffic and signal to students when traffic stops. But when motorists deliberately drive around a stopped school bus, it can be difficult for drivers and students to react in time to stay safe.

NSDPTS estimates more than 1,500 motorists every day illegally pass school buses in Ohio that are stopped to load or unload children. Buses have flashing red lights on the front and back with a stop sign that has flashing red lights on the traffic side of the bus. When motorists disregard the laws requiring them to stop children face a greater risk of injury.

Founded in 1955, the Ohio School Boards Association leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.