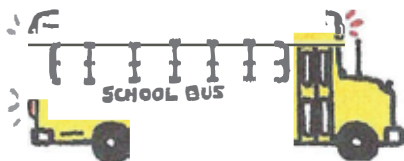


## SOME NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BUS FACTS:

- More than 2,500 state-inspected school buses travel more than 11 million miles each year transporting an estimated 169,000 New Hampshire pupils to and from school daily. Additional mileage is tallied by these vehicles on field trips and athletic events.
- More than 3,267 New Hampshire citizens have passed rigid training and testing exercises to be licensed to drive school buses.
- Transporting students to and from school on a school bus is said to be as much as 11 times safer than transporting students in private passenger cars.
- We have been extremely fortunate in New Hampshire, in the past several years, no child has been killed or severely injured by motorists who illegally passed a stopped school bus with red lights on. However, on May 1, 2018, **Operation Safe Stop** was conducted in 25 communities. In one day, 83 motorists illegally passed a stopped school bus with red lights on. For a 180-day school year, the potential is 14,940 illegal passings will take place. IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE AN EVENT TAKES PLACE. THAT'S A DISTURBING THOUGHT!!



School buses are the safest form of vehicular transportation in the world, but they can be safer with your help. **STOP** for school buses with red lights flashing, and watch out for children boarding and disembarking school buses.



NH DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
NH OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY  
NH ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE  
NH POLICE ASSOCIATION



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

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## Precious Cargo On Board



When the  
**RED LIGHTS**  
are flashing



for the  
**SCHOOL BUS**



**It's for their safety. It's the law!**

**You must STOP no closer than 25 feet for school buses whenever the alternating red lights are flashing IF:**

- you are on a two-lane roadway (one lane in each direction).
- you are on a multiple lane roadway (three or more lanes), **even if you are going in the opposite direction.** (All lanes of traffic must stop going in both directions!) **or**
- you are in a school yard, with no dedicated loading area. (RSA 265:54)



**The ONLY exceptions:**

- "...when meeting or passing a school bus which is traveling in the opposite direction on the other half of the divided highway, or when upon a controlled access highway if a school bus is stopped in a loading zone which is part of, or adjacent to, such highway and pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway." (RSA 265:54 III)

**The flashing yellow lights and what they mean:**

School bus amber (yellow) caution lights are activated at least 100 feet in advance of a planned stop to load or unload students as a warning to motorists from either direction. The flashing amber caution lights give time for vehicles going in either direction to slow down and stop. Watch for waiting students who may seek to cross the street **BEFORE** the red lights begin flashing.

**CAUTION!**

**You don't have to be seen by a law enforcement officer to be convicted of illegally passing a school bus:**

Testimony under oath by a school bus driver or other witness that a vehicle failed to stop and remain stopped for a school bus shall be sufficient evidence to prove that the owner of the vehicle was driving and has violated state law...unless such evidence is rebutted

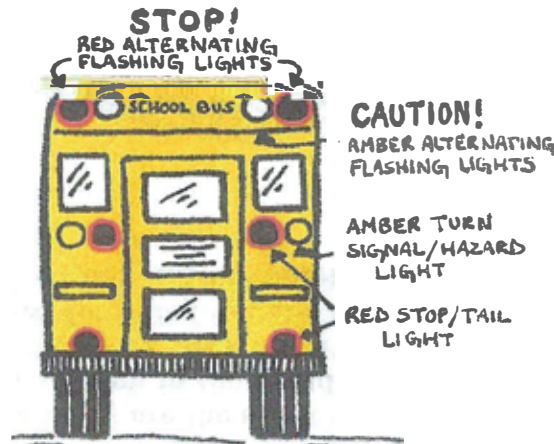
or contradicted and upheld by the court. (The owner either identifies the driver or is held personally responsible.) (RSA 265:54 I-a)



**The result can be costly. Hefty fines and loss of driving privileges await you if convicted of passing a school bus with red lights flashing. (RSA265:54)**

- The most important reason for stopping is to avoid striking, and possibly killing a child.
- Parents, family, friends and the community all suffer when this tragic loss occurs.
- And you will suffer regret and painful memories for years to come, along with significant legal and liability expenses. You may also be subject to criminal charges leading to time in jail.
- Everyone loses. NO exceptions.

**SCHOOL BUS LIGHTS:**



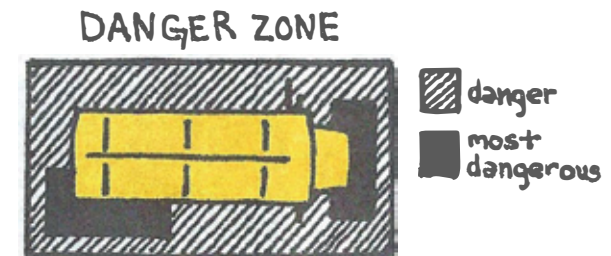
**There's more:**

The next time you come upon a school bus with the **YELLOW** lights flashing, slow down and prepare to stop. Once the **RED** lights begin to flash, and the **STOP** sign extends, children will be preparing to board or leave the bus. Stay alert and do not move your vehicle until the **RED** lights are turned off and the **STOP** sign closes. **REMEMBER:** children may have to **CROSS** the street or road to board or leave the bus. Give them time and a safe space to do so.

Some children are slower than others when getting on the bus, finding a seat, or getting off the bus. The bus driver is required to wait until **ALL** students are seated or safely away before moving the bus. Please be patient. Children's lives are at risk.



**THE SCHOOL BUS "DANGER ZONE":**



The most dangerous area for students is in the "loading" and "unloading" zones. These are areas around the school bus where students are picked up and let off. It is **not** inside the bus. Motorists can do their part by stopping for school buses and by watching for children around buses. Stay back at least 25 feet. Give students plenty of room to be able to see you and to be seen. Obey our motor vehicle laws at all times, especially around school buses.