



**National Association  
of State Directors  
of Pupil Transportation Services**

## *Press Release*

### *Motorists Still Endangering Children by Passing School Buses Illegally*

August 12, 2013

**Des Moines, Iowa-** Today, the national association representing state directors of pupil transportation released the results of its 3rd annual survey on illegal passing of school buses. In 29 states throughout the country, 23 percent of the nation's school bus drivers participated in a one-day survey to report how many times motorists passed their stopped school buses illegally. Over 108,000 school bus drivers reported that 85,279 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day. Throughout a 180-day school year, these sample results alone point to over 15 million violations by private motorists.

“There are nearly a half million school buses on the road each day in the United States,” said Max Christensen, president of the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services. He added, “This survey captured only a fraction of the violations that bus drivers and other professionals in school transportation and law enforcement know are occurring each and every day. Students are far safer in school buses than other ways of getting to school, but when they are outside the bus in the danger zone, they are quite vulnerable. Any driver who passes a stopped school bus illegally is gambling with a child's life.”

NASDPTS first coordinated the annual survey in 2011, and the results have been unfortunately consistent. In 2011, 76,685 illegal passes were documented during the one-day survey, and in 2012, 88,025 illegal passes were documented. Based on these data and recent, tragic student fatalities, some states are adopting more stringent safety countermeasures, such as improved motorist education, increased fines, and more law enforcement, including the use of photo evidence from cameras mounted on the sides of school buses. NASDPTS stresses that there is no single solution to this problem. A comprehensive approach, involving education, enforcement, and engineering, will be necessary to reduce illegal passing and achieve the goal of zero fatalities to students during transportation to and from school.

As a result of a resolution adopted by NASDPTS and its members at its most recent national conference, NASDPTS will also be researching state laws and rules to provide a nationwide inventory of required procedures for when motorists must stop for school buses. The research will document the consequences in different states for violations, whether video evidence is admissible in each state, and, what other types of evidence are necessary for law enforcement agencies to issue citations for illegally passing a stopped school bus.

NASDPTS encourages state directors, local school districts, law enforcement agencies, legislators, and all motorists to continue their efforts to solve this ongoing threat to the safety of students.

Complete information on the project, including the detailed survey results, can be found at [www.nasdpts.org/stoparm](http://www.nasdpts.org/stoparm) or by contacting NASDPTS members Derek Graham ([Derek.Graham@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Derek.Graham@dpi.nc.gov)) or Charlie Hood ([Charlie.Hood@fldoe.org](mailto:Charlie.Hood@fldoe.org)).

###

[www.nasdpts.org](http://www.nasdpts.org)