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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools Reveals Over 9,000 Stop-Arm Violations Occurred Since Start of School Bus Camera Safety Program

B-roll of those stop-arm violations caught on camera available [here](#)

PITTSBURGH, January 25, 2024– Pittsburgh Public Schools today released a new report showing over 9,000 stop-arm violations have occurred since enforcement of the school bus camera safety program began last July. The bulk of those violations were captured since the start of the 2023-2024 school year as children climbed back onboard the bus.

“The staggering number of stop-arm violations we are seeing just halfway through the school year validates the steps we have taken to end the reckless driving habits putting the lives of our students dangerously at risk,” said Michael McNamara, Chief Operations Officer. “Our school bus safety program reveals the prevalence of stop-arm violations and the absolute need to educate drivers about state law enacted to keep children safe as they enter and exit the school bus.”

According to a School Bus Stop-Arm Violation Report Card, there have been 9,202 violations detected by the safety program, at a rate of 47.9 violations per weekday and 0.7 violations per bus per day. The back-to-school period incurred the bulk of those violations with a whopping 8,770, and the month of October had the highest amount with 2,230 illegal school bus passings.

Flanked by School Police and parents, District staff and community members highlighted that it is against Pennsylvania state law to illegally pass a stopped school bus when the stop-arm is extended and red lights are flashing. PPS is among more than 20 school districts across Pennsylvania that have launched school bus safety programs in partnership with BusPatrol.

In the wake of these disturbing violations that continue to present a public safety challenge, PPS officials plan to further educate residents about the State law that requires motorists to stop for the school bus. In the coming weeks, they will share information with parents, including FAQ sheets about the safety benefits of automated enforcement technology that provides local law enforcement the tools necessary to reduce violations in their community.



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At the start of the 2022-2023 school year, PPS modernized its entire fleet, using BusPatrol to equip stop-arm cameras on every school bus that uses AI-powered safety technology to detect the license plates of drivers that violate traffic laws. Every incident is reviewed by the primary police department or reviewing agency before a violation notice is issued to the offender. BusPatrol does not create tickets but provides robust evidence packages for law enforcement to review and enable wider enforcement capabilities on the road. The technology, installation, and maintenance are provided at no cost to the school district or taxpayers.

Everyday thousands of children are needlessly put at risk due to reckless and illegal driver behavior around school buses, which can have fatal and tragic consequences. According to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, school buses are passed over 43 million times per year in the United States.

Federal agencies have called for the widespread adoption of automated school bus safety technology. The National Traffic Safety Board called on states to combat the prevalence of stop-arm violations by enacting laws enabling local jurisdictions to install automated enforcement cameras on stop-arms and to issue citations to violators caught on camera. Approximately 25 states have enacted laws to prevent illegal school bus passings with more on the way.

Pennsylvania State law requires that motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop-arm extended. The penalty for a first-time violation is \$300. Resources and more information about the District's stop-arm camera safety program can be found at pghschools.org/buspatrol.

You can find more information about BusPatrol at www.buspatrol.com

[For additional B-Roll of stop arm violations](#)

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