



Public Safety Notice

Stop for School Buses and School Vans

Drivers who pass a stopped school bus or school van with its red lights flashing and the stop sign extended are placing children's lives in immediate danger. Doing so is not a minor traffic violation. It is one of the most dangerous and reckless acts a motorist can commit.

When a school bus or school van stops, it is because children are entering or exiting the roadway. Stopping is not optional. It is a minimal duty owed to the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Risk Is Real and Potentially Lethal

- At 20 mph, a pedestrian has roughly a 10% chance of being killed
- At 30 mph, the risk of death rises to about 50%
- At 40 mph, the risk exceeds 80%

A child can be killed at surprisingly low vehicle speeds. Children are smaller, less visible, and less predictable than adults. They may trip, hesitate, or dart unexpectedly. A driver traveling even "just a little too fast" may not be able to stop in time.

Ask Yourself

- Is rushing to save a few seconds worth a child's life?
- Is any event so urgent that it justifies risking prison, criminal charges, and living forever with the knowledge that a child was killed because you were impatient and chose not to stop?

The Legal Consequences Are Severe

Under Massachusetts law, drivers must stop for school buses and school pupil transport vehicles when red lights are flashing, and the stop sign is extended.

Violations can result in:

- Significant fines
- License suspension
- Criminal charges

If a child is struck, seriously injured, or killed, the driver may likely face felony charges, including potential vehicular manslaughter, along with lifelong personal and legal consequences.

The Message Is Simple

- Slow down.
- Stop.
- Wait.
- Let children cross safely.

A moment of patience may be the reason someone's child gets home safe and alive.

Please help us remind everyone that passing stopped school buses in our community has to stop. Thank you.