

Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law

School bus safety is a high priority in Pennsylvania. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, transportation providers and the motoring public all play important roles in keeping our children safe while on or around the school bus.

- When you meet a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm activated, you **MUST STOP**.
- When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm activated, you **MUST STOP**, whether you are on the same street or the cross street.
- You **MUST STOP** at least 10 feet away from the school bus.
- Drivers do not have to stop on a highway with clearly defined dividing sections or physical barriers providing separate roadways. This only applies when the school bus is on the opposite side of the road.
- You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.

PENALTIES

The penalties for violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Laws are as follows:

Criminal Penalties - Penalties listed below apply for citations issued by law enforcement for passing a school bus with red lights flashing and stop arm activated.

- 60-Day Driver's License Suspension
- Five (5) points on your driving record
- \$250 Fine plus a \$35 surcharge

Civil Penalties - Penalty listed below applies when you are issued a violation for passing a school bus equipped with an automated side stop signal arm enforcement system.

\$300 fine, No effect to your driving record (no suspension and no points.)

For more information about the school bus stopping law and to see photo examples, visit

www.pa.gov/dmv

School Bus Safety Tips

- Caregivers should take an active role in promoting school bus safety with children.
- Children should always be walked to and from the bus stop.
- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early so students do not have to run across the road to catch the bus.
- Children should be supervised at the bus stop.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic. Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Students should walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so the school bus driver can see them.
- Never cross the street behind the school bus.
- Students should wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out into the road.
- When the school bus is moving, students should always remain in their seats. They should never put their head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Amber lights flashing on a school bus mean “caution.” When driving, watch for children on both sides of the road. Slow down and be prepared to stop.

