



## Frequently Asked Questions: Automated Stop Arm Enforcement

### What is automated stop arm enforcement?

School districts around the country are using automated stop arm enforcement to curb dangerous driving behaviors on school bus routes. A safety camera system is installed on the exterior driver's side of a school bus. It monitors and detects drivers who illegally pass school buses when the stop arm is deployed and amber lights displayed, endangering the lives of children as they enter and exit the bus.

### Why is this type of photo enforcement needed?

Drivers illegally pass school buses every day, risking the safety and security of students. A 2015 survey\* of school bus drivers in 26 states found that 78,518 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day. Throughout a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 14 million violations by a portion of America's motoring public. Stop arm photo enforcement is a law enforcement tool that can capture motorists who illegally pass school buses thereby increasing safety for children.

- Serves as a "force multiplier," for police departments with limited budgets or resources allowing officers to focus their energies on other high-priority tasks while still ensuring the safety of children riding on school buses.
- Automatically detects violations – no action is needed by the bus driver or law enforcement to capture the potential violation.
- Serves as a deterrent to breaking the law. The fine when combined with the mere presence of the camera system itself causes drivers to think twice before passing a school bus.
- Increases awareness about school bus safety in our community. Stop arm enforcement sparks a vital community conversation about student pedestrians and mindful driving.

*\*Conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services*

### How does the safety camera system work?

1. External camera systems are installed on the exterior driver's side of a school bus.

2. The camera systems automatically monitor traffic when the bus' stop arm is deployed and amber lights are displayed, allowing the bus driver to stay focused on the children.
3. The cameras are only triggered to capture data as a vehicle passes the bus while children are loading and unloading.
4. This data is reviewed and processed into an evidence file.
5. A local law enforcement officer reviews the video evidence to determine if a violation has occurred. If a violation is deemed to have occurred the citation is issued.

## What kind of data is captured by the safety cameras?

The safety camera systems generate the following data for law enforcement:

- Hi-resolution still images
- Hi-Definition video detailing the incident
- A data bar encrypted into the video images detailing date, time, GPS location of each incident.

## How does the district know which bus routes are problematic?

School officials, particularly Transportation Directors, are aware of dangerous bus stops and routes due to past incidents or injuries. School bus route analysis is also conducted to assess the frequency of stop-arm passing incidents throughout the community.

## How much does this program cost taxpayers?

There are zero costs for any state, county, city or school that chooses to implement the program. Thus there is no hidden costs to taxpayers for the resulting increased safety program in the community. The program is fully funded by the fines from violations.

## Are the cameras always rolling?

No, the cameras are only triggered to capture data of a vehicle as it passes a school bus while the stop arm is deployed and the amber lights are displayed.

## How much is the fine for illegally passing a school bus?

State law sets the fine for illegally passing a school bus at \$465.

## What happens if I get a ticket?

You can visit [www.PhotoNotice.com](http://www.PhotoNotice.com) to pay or contest the citation, or to view hi-resolution images and video of the violation.