



Illinois State Board of Education

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State Superintendent of Education

April 20, 2015

TO: School District Transportation Directors

FROM: Michael Slife, Principal Consultant
Division of Funding and Disbursement Services

SUBJECT: 2015 National School Bus Illegal Passing Survey

While school buses remain incredibly safe, we all know that students who ride buses are most vulnerable when they are outside the bus in the “danger zone.” Illinois is assisting the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) in coordinating a national survey to determine the prevalence of illegal passing of school buses. That data will help improve safety countermeasures at the state and/or national level.

We are enlisting your assistance in this important project. On Thursday, May 7, 2015, please have your district’s school bus operators observe and report any instances of motorists illegally passing their school buses, using the attached form.

Please instruct them to pay particular attention to the instructions and safety precautions. As always, their primary duty is to the safety of their students. Please have your drivers note the criteria at the bottom of the form to ensure they *report only illegal passes that occur while the bus driver is stopped with red warning lights flashing and stop arm(s) deployed in full compliance with our state training and procedures.* This year’s count focuses exclusively on individual vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses, regardless of whether multiple vehicles pass at the same stop. A motorist pass can only be considered illegal when the school bus driver is in full compliance with Illinois law (Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/11-1414) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 11-1414)) and Illinois’ training and procedures.

Please collect your district’s results and report them no later than June 1, 2015 as follows:

1. Notify your drivers about the survey and provide them with orientation and training about what’s expected. PLEASE BE SURE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THEIR PRIMARY DUTY IS TO THE SAFETY OF THEIR STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE CRITICAL LOADING AND UNLOADING SEQUENCE.

2. Encourage all drivers to complete and turn in the form EVEN IF THERE ARE NO VIOLATIONS TO REPORT.
3. Please enter your information directly into the NASDPTS survey link at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015LOCALStopArmsSurvey>

If you cannot open the attached files, please contact me by email at msslife@isbe.net or call me at 217-782-5256 if you have any questions or comments about this important initiative. Thank you for helping Illinois remain one of the leaders in student transportation safety.

Attachments: Illegal Passing Driver Reporting Form
Illegal Passing Summary Tool (spreadsheet)