**NOTICE TO DRIVERS & SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION STAFF**

TO: ???????????????

DATE:

On **Monday, October 21, 2019***,* we will participate with local, county and state law enforcement officials in a state-wide event called “**Operation Safe Stop”** to**(1)** educate the public on the dangers of illegally passing our school buses when stopped to load or unload children with the red lights flashing and stop arm extended; and **(2)** increase the presence of the police targeting drivers who violate this law and endanger our children.

Specifically, RSA265:54 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to come to a full stop when approaching a school bus stopped with thered lights flashing and stop arm extended. On May 1, 2018, New Hampshire conducted its first **Operation Safe Stop** event. In just 25 communities, 83 vehicle operators illegally passed a stopped school bus while loading/unloading children. For a 180-day school year there are over 14,940 violations. Although New Hampshire is proud of our safety record and in recent history no child has been killed or severely injured by a motorist violating the Red-Light law, it is only a matter of time before these repeated violations result in such an event.

This is a problem all of you are aware of and have always been deeply concerned about as a safety issue. As school transportation professionals, we cannot allow this to continue to happen without helping to raise the awareness of the dangers and educate other drivers.

This school year we are joining the state-wide **“Operation Safe Stop**” to he held on **Monday, October 21, 2019**.As always, we hope you will participate by being alert to such illegal passing violations, helping if needed in advance of and on the day of our program activities. Your own increased vigilance that day will help make it even more successful and increase the public's awareness about the problem and the only solution. In fact, we will use standard reporting forms to allow drivers to record instances of illegal passings during the course of the day.

In September we will be asking you to count the number of vehicles passing your Red Lights, two days a week for two weeks. We will use this data to help police focus on the Hot Spots.

I am available to talk with you if you have any questions, want to beinvolved or have ideas for making this event more successful.

Public awareness and compliance is important to all of us who areresponsible for the safe transportation of our school children. Thanks for taking time to read this and for helping with **Operation Safe Stop!**

Regards,