



# OPERATION SAFE STOP

(Draft Letter to local police officers)

(Date)

(Address)

Dear Chief \_\_\_\_\_ :

As you are aware, RSA 265:54 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to come to a full stop when approaching a stopped school bus with Red Lights flashing and stop arm extended. On May 1, 2018, in just 25 NH communities 83 vehicles passed school buses illegally on a single day. These sample results alone show for a 180-day school year over 14,940 violations by private motorists may occur. 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 repeated violations result in such an event.

In New Hampshire every year many children are needlessly placed in harm's way by motorists who pass stopped school buses loading and unloading student passengers. A statewide plan of action is in place for a one-day event on **Monday, October 21, 2019** to help elevate awareness of this serious safety problem. This plan of action is titled **Operation Safe Stop**.

**Operation Safe Stop** is aimed at educating the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus is dangerous and illegal. It is a combined effort of state, county and local law enforcement agencies, school personnel, school bus contractors, and the media to drive home this message to the motoring public.

Our school bus drivers are identifying locations on routes in your community where motorists daily pass their stopped school buses loading and unloading during the a.m. and p.m. We are requesting a meeting to discuss how your department might participate in this one day event. It would involve one or more officers for an hour in the a.m. and p.m. to assist in those locations where these violations take place daily.

Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ (*phone*) to learn more about this important event.

Your involvement in Operation Safe Stop will help ensure the safety of all children.

Sincerely,

(*Signature*)

(*Title, school or company name*)



# OPERATION SAFE STOP

## *Press Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:**

**CONTACT:** *(contact person)*

### **Did you know?**

- On May 1, 2018, in just 25 communities of New Hampshire, 83 vehicle operators illegally passed a stopped school bus loading or unloading children. This equates to 14,940 such events in a school year.
- In New Hampshire school bus drivers experience motorists illegally passing their bus every day.
- According to NHTSA, 2006-2015, averaged 5 students killed outside the bus annually by drivers illegally passing the stopped school bus.
- Motorists illegally passing stopped school buses are the second leading cause of school transportation fatalities each year.

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On **Monday, October 21, 2019**, State, County, and Local police agencies will be conducting a blanket patrol in a cooperative effort with our School District designed to raise awareness of the dangers of passing a stopped school bus loading/unloading students. This will be an important enforcement activity where police officers will be following school buses on routes identified by the local school district bus drivers as problem areas.

This state-supported, local effort, will involve school districts, police departments, the Governor's office, the Division of Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Safety.

***News crews are asked to discuss with police and school district ways to participate with this important event.***

**Contact** \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ (phone)

**School District or Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A press conference will be held at** \_\_\_\_\_ (location)

**at** \_\_\_\_\_ (date/time).

# Operation Safe Stop



## School Bus Press Advisory

**DATE:**

**CONTACT:** *(MEDIA CONTACT PERSON)*

**There is something we can do to keep our children safe, and we are getting ready to do it!**

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On **Monday, October 21, 2019**, our school district will cooperate with local, county and state law enforcement officials in a program that will:

- Educate the public on laws about and the dangers of illegally passing stopped school buses with red lights flashing and the stop arm extended; and
- Increase police presence, targeting of violators of this law.

Specifically, RSA 265:54 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law requires ALL motorists to come to full stop when approaching a school bus stopped with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended. Despite this law, New Hampshire school bus drivers experience motorists illegally passing their buses every day.

You may not know: on May 1, 2018, **Operation Safe Stop**, conducted in just 25 New Hampshire communities identified 83 violations. For a 180-day school year, over 14,940 violations by private motorists take place in NH.

We cannot allow this to continue to happen in New Hampshire.

Efforts are being made, when a school bus driver is able to obtain a sufficient description of a vehicle illegally passing, and reports the violation to local law enforcement, appropriate action may be taken. But clearly this has not been enough to reduce this most dangerous behavior by other motorists.

This is why, in cooperation with the NH DMV, DOS and local law enforcement the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual, state-sponsored **Operation Safe Stop Day** will be held on **Monday, October 21, 2019**, kicking off **New Hampshire's School Bus Safety Week**.

We are asking the media to help keep our children safe by covering our events of the day, including news coverage highlighting the dangers of illegally passing school buses loading or unloading children. This is your opportunity to perform a major public service.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions, want to get involved or need additional information. Also available are prepared PSA videos that I would be happy to share with you.

Regards,

*(name)*

School Transportation Supervisor



# OPERATION SAFE STOP

## NOTICE TO SCHOOL COLLEAGUE

*(Superintendent's, or Designee's Information)*

**TO:** Our School Colleagues

**SUBJECT:** Operation Safe Stop

**DATE:** *(Enter Day, Date)*

On **Monday, October 21, 2019**, our school district's Transportation Office will cooperate with local, county and state law enforcement officials in a program designed to **(1)** educate the public on laws about and the dangers of illegally passing stopped school buses with red lights flashing and stop arm extended; and **(2)** increase police presence targeting violators of this law.

You may be or not be aware, RSA 265:54 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to come to a full stop when approaching a stopped school bus with the red lights flashing and stop arm extended. On May 1, 2018, **Operation Safe Stop** in just 25 New Hampshire communities identified 83 violations. For a 180-day school year, over 14,940 violations by private motorists take place in NH. 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.

We cannot allow this to continue to happen. That is why we are cooperating with our Local Police, the State Police, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and NH Department of Safety in a program called **Operation Safe Stop**. **Operation Safe Stop** is a public education and promotion effort providing public information, increased and intensified police alertness to such illegal passing's, and information you may share with parents and friends.

This school year we are joining the state-wide **Operation Safe Stop Day** to be held on **Monday, October 21, 2019**. We hope you will participate by being alert to such illegal passing's, helping if needed in advance of and on the day of our program activities. And talking about this serious and dangerous problem among your families, neighbors, and social acquaintances and colleagues.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions, want to be involved or need additional information. You may even want to have your students complete a writing or art project related to this law or other laws that protect our children and families on our roads and highways. Also included is information regarding safe walking to and from school.

Thanks for taking time to read this and becoming involved in **Operation Safe Stop!**

Regards,

*(Business Administrator, Superintendent, or Principal)*



# OPERATION SAFE STOP

## 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, RSA 265:54 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to come to a full stop when approaching a school bus stopped with the red 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 be 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 be involved or have ideas for making this event more successful.

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

Regards,