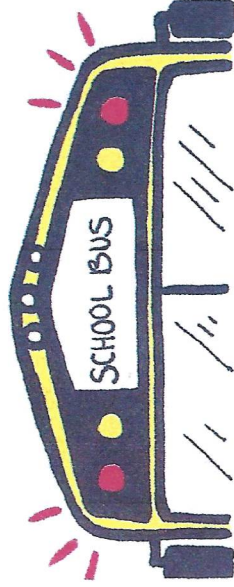


**SOME NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SCHOOL BUS FACTS:**

- More than 2,700 state-inspected school buses travel more than 13 million miles each year transporting an estimated 173,000 New Hampshire pupils to and from school daily. Additional mileage is tallied by these vehicles on field trips and athletic events.
- More than 3,770 New Hampshire citizens have passed rigid training and testing exercises to be licensed to drive school buses.
- Transporting students to and from school on a school bus is said to be as much as eleven times safer than transporting students in private passenger cars.
- A 2017 survey by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services with 29 States and 104,000 drivers recorded in a one-day snapshot 77,972 vehicles illegally passed their buses while loading/unloading students. This translates for a 180 day school year to over 14 million violations by private motorists. Although NH is proud of our safety record, with no children struck or killed in the past several years, our drivers experience this every day. **IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE AN EVENT TAKES PLACE. THAT'S A DISTURBING THOUGHT!!**



School buses are the safest form of vehicular transportation in the world, but they can be safer with your help. **STOP** for school buses with red lights flashing, and watch out for children boarding and disembarking school buses.



NH OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY  
NH DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
NH ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE  
NH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION



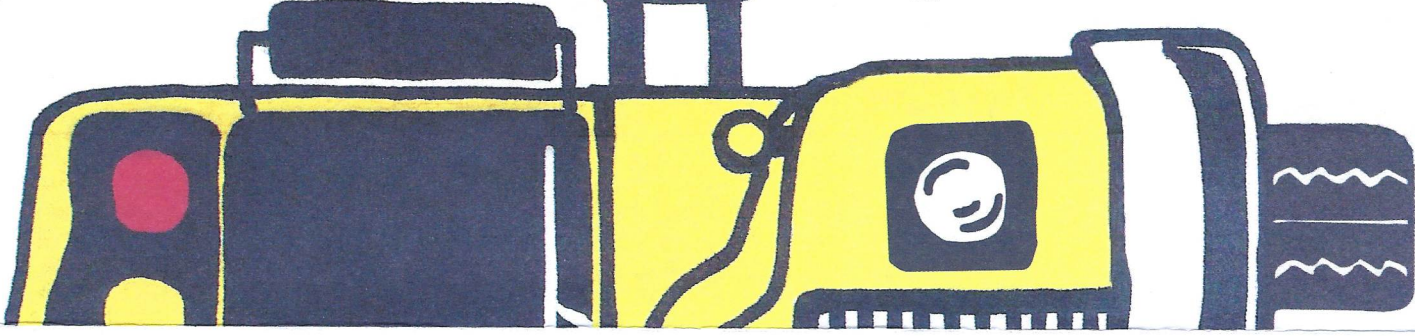
Publication of this pamphlet is supported through funds provided by the  
New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety  
and the  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**Precious Cargo On Board**

When the  
**RED LIGHTS**  
are flashing



for the  
**SCHOOL BUS**



**It's for their safety. It's the law!**



**You must STOP no closer than 25 feet for school buses whenever the alternating red lights are flashing IE:**

- you are on a two-lane roadway (one lane in each direction)
- you are on a multiple lane roadway (three or more lanes), even if you are going in the opposite direction. (All lanes of traffic must stop going in both directions!), or
- you are in a school yard, with no dedicated loading area. (RSA 265:54)



**The ONLY exceptions:**

- "...when meeting or passing a school bus which is traveling in the opposite direction on the other half of the divided highway, or when upon a controlled access highway if a school bus is stopped in a loading zone which is part of, or adjacent to, such highway and pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway." (RSA 265:54 III)

**The flashing yellow lights and what they mean:**

School bus amber (yellow) caution lights are activated at least 100 feet in advance of a planned stop to load or unload students as a warning to motorists from either direction. The flashing amber caution lights give time for vehicles going in either direction to slow down and stop. Watch for waiting students who may seek to cross the street BEFORE the red lights begin flashing.

**CAUTION!**

**You don't have to be seen by a law enforcement officer to be convicted of passing a school bus.**

Testimony under oath by a school bus driver or other witness that a vehicle failed to stop and remain stopped for a school bus shall be sufficient evidence to prove that the owner of the vehicle was driving and has violated state law... unless such evidence is rebutted

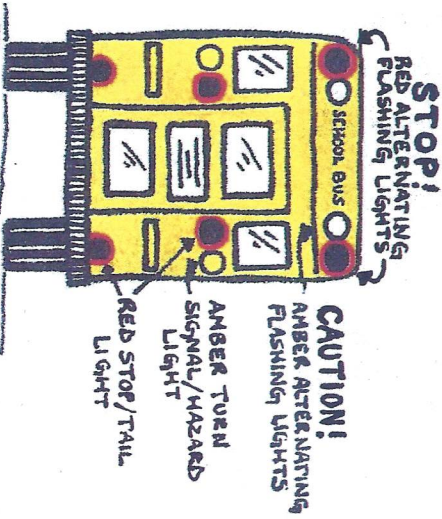
or contradicted and upheld by the court. (The owner either identifies the driver or is held personally responsible.) (RSA 265:54 I-a)



**The result can be costly. Heavy fines and loss of driving privileges await you if convicted of passing a school bus with red lights flashing (RSA 265:54):**

- The most important reason for Stopping is to avoid striking, and possibly killing a child.
- Parents, family, friends and the community all suffer when this tragic loss occurs.
- And you will suffer regret and painful memories for years to come, along with significant legal and liability expenses. You may also be subject to criminal charges leading to time in jail.
- Everyone loses. NO exceptions.

**SCHOOL BUS LIGHTS:**



The next time you come upon a school bus with the **YELLOW** lights flashing, slow down and prepare to stop. Once the **RED** lights begin to flash, and the **STOP** sign extends, children will be preparing to board the bus. Stay alert and do not move your vehicle until the **RED** lights are turned off and the **STOP** sign closes.

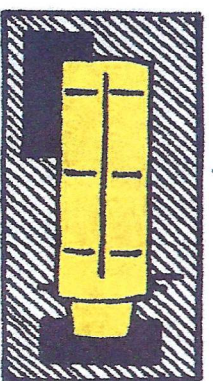
**REMEMBER:** children may have to **CROSS** the street or road to board the bus. Give them time and a safe space to do so.

Some children are slower than others or may have difficulty climbing the bus steps, find a seat and sit. The Driver is required to wait until **ALL** students are seated before moving the bus. Please be patient, it will only be one to two minutes, and you will be on your way.



**THE SCHOOL BUS "DANGER ZONE":**

**DANGER ZONE**



**danger**  
**most-dangerous**

The most dangerous area for students is in the "loading" and "unloading" zones... the area around the school bus where students are picked up and let off. It is not inside the bus. Motorists can do their part by stopping for school buses and by watching for children around buses. Stay back at least 25 feet. Give students plenty of room to be able to see you and to be seen. Obey our motor vehicle laws... at all times... especially around school buses.