



PennDOT Reminds Motorists of School Bus Safety Tips as Children Return to School

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently reminded motorists of the School Bus Stopping Law and their responsibilities as motorists.

Each day, 1.5 million children are transported to school on Pennsylvania roads, traveling approximately 400 million miles on school buses each year.

"We want all of our children to have a safe trip to and from school. As the new school year begins, it is a good time for motorists to familiarize themselves with Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law," said PennDOT District Executive Bill Kovach. "Our children's safety is in your hands. Please slow down, pay attention, and follow the law, especially in school zones and around school buses."



SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW

Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law:

- ⇒ When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ⇒ When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ⇒ You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.
- ⇒ You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- ⇒ **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.

To further promote safety, school vehicles may be equipped with a yellow flashing or revolving light.

If you are convicted of violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, you will receive all the following penalties:

- 60-Day Driver's License Suspension
- Five (5) points on your driving record
- \$250 Fine (If a school bus is equipped with a side stop arm enforcement system and you pass a school bus with its red lights flashing, you could receive a \$300 fine in the mail.)

Annually, more than 700 drivers are convicted for passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing.

For more information on school bus safety, visit www.PennDOT.pa.gov/Safety.

PennDOT's [media center](#) offers social-media-sized graphics highlighting topics such as [school bus safety](#) for organizations, community groups, or others who share safety information with their stakeholders.



PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW

Keeping Children Safe

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

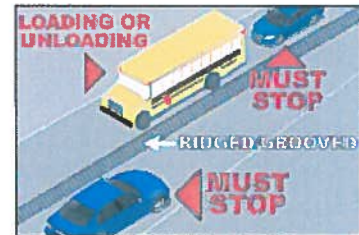
- ◆ 1.5 million children are transported on Pennsylvania roads each day.
- ◆ These children are transported approximately 400 million miles to school each year.
- ◆ To further promote safety, school vehicles may be equipped with a yellow flashing or revolving light.
- ◆ Every year, children are needlessly injured or killed by drivers passing stopped school buses.



You **MUST STOP** on roadways with or without painted lines.



You **MUST STOP** at an intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign. All traffic **MUST STOP**.

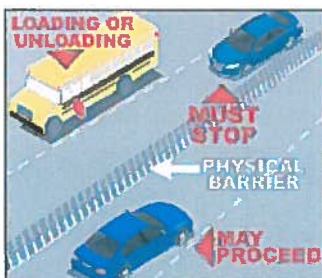


You **MUST STOP** on roadways with ridged/grooved dividers.

SEPARATE ROADWAYS

Drivers may proceed on a highway with clearly defined dividing sections or physical barriers providing separate roadways. This only applies when the school bus is on the opposite side of the road.

*If In Doubt, **STOP!***



Physical barriers include concrete median barriers, metal median barriers, guide rails, etc.



Clearly indicated dividing sections include trees or shrubs, rocks or boulders, a stream, grass, etc.





PennDOT and Safety Partners Attended ‘Rally On Main’ in Washington County to Promote Motorcycle Safety

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and The Highway Safety Network recently attended “Rally On Main” in Washington County. PennDOT representatives were available to answer questions, share safe riding tips, and distribute motorcycle safety resources.

During the event, PennDOT shared information on the [Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety Program \(PAMSP\)](#) and how riders can take advantage of the recently revamped program’s motorcycle training courses tailored for all skill levels.

In 2022, there were 3,328 crashes involving a motorcyclist, resulting in 217 fatalities statewide. Though motorcyclist fatalities decreased slightly in 2022, they reached a 10-year high in 2020, increasing further in 2021 to 226. Last year’s 217 fatalities ties 2020 for the second highest number in more than 10 years. To combat these numbers, motorists and motorcyclists must work together to keep each other safe.

PennDOT offers these safety tips for motorists sharing the road with motorcycles:

- ✧ Look out for motorcyclists – be aware that motorcycles are small and may be difficult to see.
- ✧ Allow more following distance – leave at least four seconds when following a motorcycle.
- ✧ Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position. Don’t be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling, and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed. Many times, it is difficult for motorists to estimate the speed of a motorcycle.
- ✧ Respect a motorcycle as a full-size vehicle with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. Allow a motorcyclist a full lane width as the motorcyclist needs the room to maneuver safely in all types of road conditions. Absolutely DO NOT share the lane with a motorcyclist.

For more information on motorcycle safety, visit www.PennDOT.pa.gov/safety.

Are You in the Know?

Subscribe to PennDOT news and traffic alerts in Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties at [PennDOT District 12](#).

Information about infrastructure in District 12, including completed work and significant projects, is available at [District 12 Results](#). Find PennDOT’s planned and active construction projects at [PennDOT Projects](#).

Follow PennDOT on [Twitter](#) and like the department on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



PennDOT Participated in the National Crackdown Impaired Driving Campaign to Encourage Sober Driving

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) District 12 recently participated in the “National Crackdown Impaired Driving Campaign” from August 16 through September 4 in Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

PennDOT county maintenance offices strategically placed changeable message signs displaying “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” in locations that have a high number of crashes involving impaired driving.



“Our maintenance staff welcomed the opportunity to participate in sharing the message to drive sober and be responsible when traveling on our roads,” said PennDOT Assistant District Executive of Maintenance Robb Dean, P.E.

In Pennsylvania, impaired driving remains a top safety issue. An impaired driver can be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including illegal drugs and prescription medication, or some combination of these. Impairment is impairment. While illegal drugs can be especially dangerous when combined with driving, motorists should always read their prescription drug labels and never drive if the medication indicates not to.

In 2022, there were 10,296 crashes involving an impaired driver in Pennsylvania, resulting in 452 fatalities. District 12’s region of Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties made up 691 of those crashes, resulting in 43 fatalities.

PennDOT urges motorists to never drive impaired. Even a small amount of alcohol can affect someone’s ability to drive. Always designate a sober driver or utilize public transportation or rideshare options.

“The Pennsylvania State Police reminded the public that no matter where your upcoming holiday celebrations take you, it is important to plan ahead for a safe way home and to never get behind the wheel impaired,” said Trooper Kalee Barnhart. “DUIs are 100% preventable.”

PennDOT District 12 safety partners at the Highway Safety Network joined in the campaign by sharing pictures of the message boards on their social media accounts.

For more information on impaired driving, visit www.PennDOT.pa.gov/safety.