

School Bus Illegal Passing Survey

Results 2014

COLORADO
DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION



National Association of State Directors of Pupil
Transportation Services (NASDPTS)

The Danger Zone

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.” The State of Colorado assisted the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Service (NASDPTS) in coordinating a national survey to determine the prevalence of illegal passing of school buses in Colorado. This data is intended to help improve safety countermeasures at the state and national level.

On Wednesday, May 7, 2014, twenty (20) School Transportation Departments from across the state of Colorado participated in a “Stop Arm Violators Survey.” The goal was to identify the number of cars that illegally pass a school bus while actively involved in the loading or unloading of students (red lights flashing, stop arm extended). The results are very alarming.

Survey Results

Number of drivers participating in the survey	951
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Number of buses that were illegally passed	297
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Time of Day

Morning Route	292 times
Mid-Day Route	28 times
Afternoon Route	326 times

Direction

Front of the bus (heading in the opposite direction of the bus)	425 times
Rear of the bus (heading in the same direction of the bus)	215 times

Side of the Bus

Driver Side (roadside)	609 times
Door Side (shoulder/other lane)	22 times

** One driver reported that she had 15 vehicles illegally pass her vehicle within the course of her daily routes.

** Colorado lost one child to a stop arm violation by a motorist in 1987.