



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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*Governor*

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*Lt. Governor*

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*Acting Commissioner*

March 28, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators  
School Business Administrators

ROUTE TO: School District Transportation Directors

FROM: Yut'se O. Thomas, Director  
Office of School Finance

SUBJECT: 2017 National School Bus Illegal-Passing Survey

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is encouraging school districts to participate in a nationwide survey regarding instances of motorists illegally passing school buses. The survey is sponsored by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS). The survey is designed to lead to improved safety measures at the state and national levels by focusing on the time that students get on and off buses, when children are most vulnerable to accidents. Participation in this survey is voluntary.

Data will be collected from school districts and school bus contractors on a state-designated representative school day. On **Wednesday, May 3, 2017**, please have your district's and/or contractor's school bus drivers use the attached form below to report any instances of motorists illegally passing school buses. Even drivers who have no "pass-bys" on the day of the survey should submit the form so accurate data can be collected.

Please instruct drivers to pay particular attention to the instructions and safety precautions. As always, their primary duty is to the safety of their students. Drivers should only report illegal passes that occur while the bus is stopped with red warning lights flashing and stop arm(s) deployed in compliance with state training and procedures.

Districts and school bus contractors are asked to collect their drivers' survey results and report them directly into the [NASDPTS online survey](#) no later than **May 31, 2017**.

Additional information about the nationwide survey can be found on the [NASDPTS website](#).

If you have questions, contact Gregory Fera or Raymond Zirilli at the NJDOE at (609) 984-5757 or email [student.trans@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:student.trans@doe.state.nj.us).

Thank you for your help with this important national initiative.

Attachment

YOT/fl:

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Kimberley Harrington, Acting Commissioner  
Senior Staff  
Executive County Superintendents  
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers  
Executive County Business Officials  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
SPAN-NJ  
NJ LEE Group

# NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BUS ILLEGAL-PASSING DRIVER SURVEY (Wednesday, 5/03/2017)

DEAR SCHOOL BUS DRIVER: New Jersey is participating in a national survey regarding vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses that are loading and unloading students. Please observe the vehicles that illegally pass your school bus while it is stopped with STOP ARM(s) extended on May 3, 2017 and put an X in the appropriate blanks. Report any vehicles observed illegally passing your stopped school bus. REMEMBER: Take extreme caution when completing the form – YOUR MAIN RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE SAFETY OF YOUR STUDENTS. Time permitting, complete as much information as possible and submit to your supervisor by May 31, 2017, so the supervisor can return the form to the National Assn. of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services. This form should be completed by each driver on the day of the illegal-passing count. Return this form to your supervisor EVEN IF THERE ARE NO VIOLATIONS TO REPORT. Contact the NJ Department of Education at [student.trans@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:student.trans@doe.state.nj.us) with any questions.

School/District/Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver (your) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus #: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS: FILL OUT ONE ROW FOR EACH VEHICLE THAT PASSES YOUR BUS.**

*Example: If three vehicles pass at the same bus stop, use three rows. If there were no pass-bys of your bus on the day of the survey, leave all rows blank.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ I had no pass-bys during today's survey (turn in form with rows below blank).**

<b>WHEN did the vehicle illegally pass your stopped school bus? (insert "X")</b>	<b>Vehicle Passed from WHAT DIRECTION?: (insert "X")</b>	<b>Vehicles Passed on WHICH SIDE of the Bus? (insert "X")</b>
____ AM ____ Mid-day ____ PM	____ Front (Opposite Direction) ____ Rear (Same Direction)	____ Left (driver side) ____ Right (door side)
____ AM ____ Mid-day ____ PM	____ Front (Opposite Direction) ____ Rear (Same Direction)	____ Left (driver side) ____ Right (door side)
____ AM ____ Mid-day ____ PM	____ Front (Opposite Direction) ____ Rear (Same Direction)	____ Left (driver side) ____ Right (door side)
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____ AM ____ Mid-day ____ PM	____ Front (Opposite Direction) ____ Rear (Same Direction)	____ Left (driver side) ____ Right (door side)
____ AM ____ Mid-day ____ PM	____ Front (Opposite Direction) ____ Rear (Same Direction)	____ Left (driver side) ____ Right (door side)

*Please report only violations that meet the following criteria:*

- (1) BUS IS COMPLETELY STOPPED**
- (2) BUS RED LIGHTS ARE FLASHING AND STOP SIGN(S) EXTENDED**
- (3) VEHICLE(S) ILLEGALLY PASS BY THE RIGHT OR LEFT SIDE OF BUS DURING STOP**

*This data collection form should be completed by each bus driver on the day of the illegal-passing count and should be turned in to a supervisor EVEN IF THERE ARE NO VIOLATIONS TO REPORT. Use more than one page if needed.*