



# NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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*Our future is riding with us!*

**Press Release:** February 28, 2017  
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## **DISTURBING SAFETY NEWS:** **ILLEGAL PASSING CONTINUES AT DANGEROUS LEVELS!**

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) today released the results of a survey taken on February 9, 2017, to measure the incidence of motorists illegally passing stopped school buses. And the results simply cannot be ignored by government leaders, the media and the public.

In the **31** school districts that participated in the survey that day, **890** school bus drivers reported they were passed a total of **607 times**, including **6** passes on the passenger (or right) side of the school bus. The number of passes as well as right side passes may have been affected in part because the survey was taken the day of and, in some cases, the day after, a major Nor-easter snow storm in the state.

At that rate of passing when applied to over 50,000 school buses in New York State, the total estimated illegal passing rate is **34,101 passes** for that day. That same calculation would mean that **337** motorists passed school buses on the **RIGHT** side of the bus that day.

For the current school year, the survey is averaging 39,499 illegal passes per day as well as 2,901 right side passes per day. While the month-to-month numbers were lower in February, it does not reduce the overall critical safety problem.

NYAPT President, Lori Ann Savino (Jericho Public Schools), noted that "We continue to be deeply concerned about this clear and present danger for our children. Motorists really must pay attention and follow the law that requires them to STOP for those red lights. It's all we ask."

NYAPT Executive Director, Peter Mannella, noted: "This is personal. Every time a motorist passes a yellow school bus with its red lights flashing, he or she endangers the life of a child. That is unacceptable. We implore those with whom we share the road to simply obey the law. A Child's life is depending on it. We call on the Governor, the state agencies and the State Legislature to recognize this as a critical problem we must address together. It's an easy message: **STOP FOR THE SCHOOL BUS!**"

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