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**NEW YORK ASSOCIATION  
FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**

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**NYAPT**

*Our future is riding with us!*

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It is that time of the year when our children are returning to school. The New York Association for Pupil Transportation reminds everyone that the 2.3 million children who ride school buses to and from school every day in New York State are driven by qualified and well-trained school bus drivers. The school bus is well equipped and maintained by professional technicians. Our school children are travelling to school and back home again on routes that are carefully planned for safety first and efficiencies second. Rest assured school transportation officials are doing their best to keep kids safe riding school buses.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, students are 70 times safer riding a school bus to school versus a car. See [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

“Here in New York State we have exceptional training programs, equipment and personnel to drive our school children to and from school everyday and keep them safe. Our safety record in New York is the result of the hard work by school transportation professionals and our partners who strive every day to maintain that record and keep our children safe,” noted Michael Sweeney, President of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation and Transportation Director at the Westmoreland Central School District in Central New York.

NYAPT also reminds motorists that the New York State Vehicle and Traffic law requires all vehicles to come to a full stop when approaching a school bus stopped with red lights flashing. Those lights indicate that a child is either boarding or disembarking a school bus. The law requires motorists to stop in all directions including divided and multi-lane roads. Motorists who violate the law are subject to fines ranging from \$250-\$400 including five points on their license for a first conviction with increasing penalties for subsequent violations.

The newly approved stop arm camera law, that is scheduled to go into effect on September 5, 2019, also levies fines to the owner of any vehicle that passes a stopped school bus with red lights flashing. Those fines are \$250 for first violation up to \$300 for subsequent violations.

NYAPT reminds the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus is not only against the law, it endangers the lives of students who we are entrusted to protect. Give your full attention to driving safely especially near school buses. A child’s life depends on you to do the right thing. Stop for stopped school buses with red lights flashing!

NYAPT wishes all students a safe and successful school year!

*NYAPT is dedicated to the support, development and representation of pupil transportation professionals.*