



***NAPT STATEMENT ON ESTABLISHING A
STANDARD DEFINITION OF ILLEGAL PASSING***

Background

NAPT understands that the passing of stopped school buses by motorists presents a grave danger to the 25 million children who board, ride and depart school buses each day.

Statistically, surveys among individual states and the 2023 annual survey by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) reports over 242,000 illegal passes on a daily basis. Each of those instances presents an immediate danger to our children.

Discussion

This is not a new problem. It has been at the forefront of industry discussions and advocacy activities for many years. State associations and state agencies have launched educational and enforcement programs to reduce or at least stabilize the incidents of this behavior.

Many states have increased fines for illegal passing, and many have authorized camera-based technology to identify and ticket violators. School bus manufacturers have modified lighting, equipment, and signage to try to draw motorists' attention to the school bus and the fact that it is stopping.

NHTSA has initiated several research projects aimed at exploring effective practices, equipment and legal or regulatory efforts across the nation. We all await the results and findings of these studies.

NAPT's Public Policy Committee recognized the fact that "illegal passing" is defined differently across the 50 states and perhaps these disparate definitions are contributing to the problem. The committee felt that a standard definition would facilitate efforts to educate the public and to ensure more consistent enforcement across the states, particularly in inter-state border areas where motorists might encounter two or more definitions as they travel.

NAPT believes that, even if the benefits were minimal, it would be an improvement over the current hodgepodge of laws. We believe that something must be done, and we need to exhaust all avenues.

Statement of Position

The NAPT Board of Directors supports creating a nationwide definition of "illegal passing of school buses" and advocating to advance this concept.

As a part of this advocacy effort, the board is eager to contact our industry partners to ensure their concurrence and willingness to collaborate.