



Thirty-Day Stop Arm Violation Survey Talking Points

- As Kansas schools get back in session, it is critical for drivers to be vigilant when school buses are in the vicinity.
- It only takes a second for tragedy to occur.
- Obey the stop arm signals and know the law.

BACKGROUND

- Kansas Highway Patrol requested that Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) conduct a school bus safety awareness project.
- Fifty-seven Kansas school districts volunteered to participate in a 30-day (school days) survey to measure the number of motorists illegally passing school buses.
- Data was self-reported by district school bus drivers from January 23, 2017, through March 3, 2017.
- Information collected included the type of roadway the bus was travelling on at the time of the incident (city, country or highway); the time of day (morning, noon or afternoon); direction (front or rear of bus); and side of the bus (left or right.)

REPORTING VARIANCES

- Not all volunteer districts participated for the full 30 school days.
- Some participating districts have four-day school weeks.
- Some participating districts did not have their entire bus fleet report.
- The counts were impacted by spring break, President's Day and parent-teacher conferences.

KANSAS LAW

- The driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking any stopped school bus from either direction must stop before reaching the bus when the flashing red lights are in operation.
- The driving can't proceed until the school bus resumes motion and the flashing red lights and the stop arm signal are no longer active.
- School bus drivers activate the warning lights (amber lights) prior to activating the red flashing lights and stop arm, which allows other drivers time to slow down and stop.

SURVEY RESULTS

- Total number of violations reported by 57 Kansas school districts during the 30-day time period: 9,967.
- Violation locations - city: 9,941; highway: 322; county: 154
- Time of violation – morning: 4,076; noon: 678; afternoon: 5,213
- Violation direction – rear of bus: 2718; front of bus: 7,249
- Violation side of bus – right: 222; left: 9,745
- Wichita USD 259 reported the greatest number of violations during the 30-day period: 6,888 (6,866 city violations; 21 county violations; 1 highway violation)