

Recently the Readington Township Police Department has received an increase number of complaints about motorists passing school busses with their flashing lights on. Motorists should be aware that all Readington Township School busses are outfitted with cameras that record the entire bus route. These cameras are capable of capturing the violator's license plates and the identity of the driver. As bus drivers report these violations to the Readington Township Police Department, officers have a zero tolerance for school bus violations. The violator will be issued a summons for: 39:4-128.1 Improper Passing School Bus

On a New Jersey undivided highway, when approaching or overtaking a stopped bus that is being used to transport children to or from school or a summer day camp or a school connected activity, a driver must stop at least 25 feet from the bus and wait until all children have entered the bus or safely reached the side of the road, or until the bus is no longer exhibiting a flashing red light. (The bus driver will exhibit a flashing red light until all children entering or exiting the bus have reached a place of safety.)

Similarly, on a divided highway, a driver must stop and wait when passing a bus from behind. When passing on a divided highway in the opposite direction, a driver must slow to 10 miles per hour until passing the bus and any children that are entering or exiting.

When a school bus is parked at the curb in front of a school, a day camp, or a school connected activity and is receiving or discharging children directly to or from that location, a driver may pass without stopping, but not at a speed above 10 miles per hour.

*Penalties for violating NJSA 39:4-128.1 will result in a fine of not less than \$100 and **5 points on your driving record** and the possibility of community service and or up to 15 days in jail.*

Please be aware of stopped school busses to help keep our children safe.