

## **MPCS School Bus Safety Camera Program FAQs**

### **Q. Why has the Manassas Park City Schools implemented a School Bus Safety Camera Program?**

A. Today, parents have enough reasons to worry about their children's safety—sending them to school should not be one of them. It is illegal and incredibly dangerous for a vehicle to pass a stopped school bus.

More than 400 children nationwide have been killed by drivers passing a topped school bus over the past four decades according to the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at NC State University. The goal of the program is to improve the safety and transportation of students riding school buses. We are committed to reducing violations, collisions and injuries to keep our community safe.

Approximately 35 buses transport 3000 students to and from school each day. "Our goal is to educate drivers and stop the illegal passing of school buses," said John Evans, Chief of Police for Manassas Park, "Our number one priority is to protect our citizens. We are proud to have this additional tool to help keep our children safe."

School Bus Safety Cameras were installed in April 2017 on all MCPS school buses.

### **Q. What is a school bus violation?**

A. A school bus violation occurs when a motorist passes a school bus after the school bus has come to a complete stop with its stop arm extended and lights flashing.

### **Q. Why is this type of enforcement needed?**

- Violations are automatically detected allowing the bus driver to focus on the precious cargo, school children.
- Photo-enforcement systems serve as a force multiplier, allowing for continuous enforcement while law enforcement officials focus on other high-priority policing needs.
- When a school bus stops and alternating red flashing lights are active, you must stop – It's the law.

### **Q. How does the School Bus Arm Safety Camera work?**

A. GRAPHICS ATTACHED

Step 1: High-resolution cameras are installed at key locations on the exterior of the school bus.

Step 2: When a school bus extends its stop arm, the system can automatically detect if a vehicle passes the stopped school bus within the enforced zone.

Step 3: If a vehicle passes the school bus, the cameras capture images and video showing the violating vehicle.

Step 4: The violation images include not only the violating vehicle as it passes the school bus, but also the vehicle's license plate and the school bus' extended stop arm. The system also records a video of the violating vehicle as further evidence of the violation.

Step 5: Violation data and images are then wirelessly uploaded to ATS' Axisis™ Violation Processing System for validation, processing and notice issuance.

Step 6: A final review of the violation image and video is conducted by law enforcement personnel, who then will approve or reject the violation.

**Q. How are bus routes selected?**

School District officials work with local police to determine the frequency of illegal stop-arm passing. In many cases, District officials have been made aware of dangerous driving habits that impact the safety of our children as they enter and exit school buses.

**Q. How much is the fine?**

Violators will be assessed a \$250 penalty. This is a civil penalty, no points will be assessed, no reporting to insurance companies.

**Q. What do I do if I have received a notice?**

Please visit [www.violationinfo.com](http://www.violationinfo.com) and logon with the information provided on the notice. There are also detailed instructions on the back side of the notice.

**Q. Who installed the school bus stop arm safety camera program?**

The program is administered and maintained by ATS with no upfront cost to the district. Once it is implemented, it will be 100 percent stop-arm violator funded. Learn more about ATS by visiting: [www.atsol.com](http://www.atsol.com)