BUSPATROL

School Bus Safety Program
FAQ

WHAT'S INSIDE

BUSPATROL

INTRODUCTION

Passing a school bus is not a victimless crime.

Drivers illegally pass school bus stop-arms at an alarming rate, putting our most vulnerable population – children – at risk every day.

In 2022, a 16-year-old girl in Pennsylvania was crossing the street to board her school bus when an oncoming vehicle struck her, despite the school bus being stopped with the stop-arm and flashing lights.

Just a few months later in Wisconsin, a 13-year-old girl was killed by a vehicle while waiting to board the school bus. The motorist attempted to pass the school bus, even though the bus deployed its stop-arm, and its lights were flashing. The car sideswiped the school bus, then struck and killed the student.

And just last year, a nine-year-old student in Florida was hit by a car while trying to board her school bus. The motorist hit the young girl, who was thrown 50 feet in the air when she was struck.

The accident left her with life-altering injuries.

Hear Aubrielle's story, told in her mother's own words.

Even a single death or injury at the hands of an illegal school bus passing is one too many. It's BusPatrol's mission to help students arrive to and from school safely, reducing the number of illegal school bus passings using automated stop-arm enforcement.

This FAQ covers BusPatrol's technology, the legislative landscape of stop-arm citations, and how BusPatrol can partner with school districts and municipalities to significantly decrease dangerous driving around school buses.
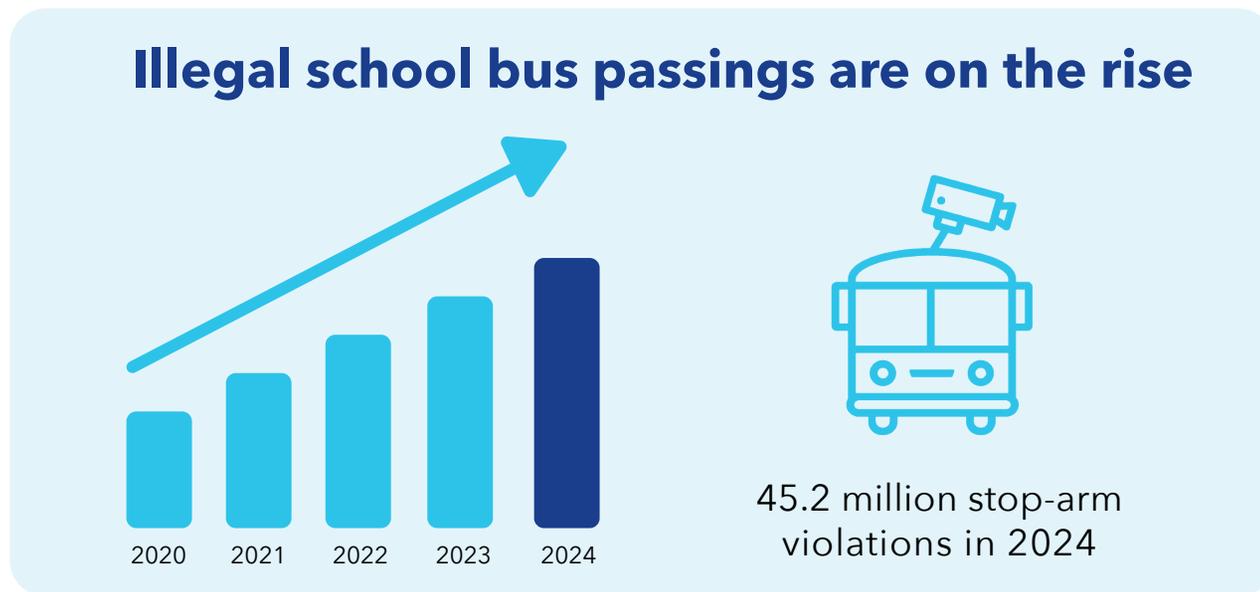
A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE
TOO BIG TO BE IGNORED

How often do drivers illegally pass stopped school buses?

Every year, an estimated 450,000 public school buses across the country travel more than 4.3 billion miles, transporting 23.5 million children to and from school, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. These students rely on their district's school buses to make it to and from school safely.

However, according to the latest findings from the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services' annual illegal passing survey, there were an estimated **45.2 million stop-arm violations in 2024**, an increase from a record-breaking 43.5 million projected violations in the 2022–2023 school year.

Illegal school bus passings are on the rise

2020   2021   2022   2023   2024

45.2 million stop-arm violations in 2024

"If you were to listen to the bus radios, there's not a week that goes by without an incident of a driver ignoring the stop sign or flashing lights and driving past the slowing or stopped bus,"

- Todd Stultz, West Shore School District Superintendent, York County, PA

What's more, some experts believe the actual number of illegal school bus passings is even higher, according to 2023 research from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

What does this look like on a local level?

A recent pilot study with a Massachusetts school district revealed just how serious the issue can be at the community level, highlighting the urgent need for local solutions.

BusPatrol recently conducted a study with Peabody County Public Schools, the first stop-arm camera pilot program in the state. Over a month-long study of 10 school buses, BusPatrol recorded 865 Illegal passings, about 3.6 violations per bus per day, one of the highest violations rates the company has recorded thus far.

At the time of the study, Peabody County Public Schools couldn't leverage photo enforcement technology to ticket motorists who failed to stop for the school bus, making the data even more concerning as there was little the district could do at the time.

However, in early 2025, Massachusetts enacted a law allowing cities and towns to use cameras on school buses to record motor vehicles that fail to stop for school buses, citing BusPatrol's Peabody data as major source of support.

With illegal school bus passings growing nationally year over year, tracking and citing violations is essential to halting the rising trend.

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It's terrifying to witness a driver recklessly blow past a stopped school bus as a child is getting on or off. It's far too easy for a tragedy to unfold in those crucial moments.

What's even more concerning is the increasing frequency of these incidents and the blatant disregard many motorists seem to have for the safety of our children.

- Maria Scheri, Peabody President and S.T.O.P The Operator from Passing Founder
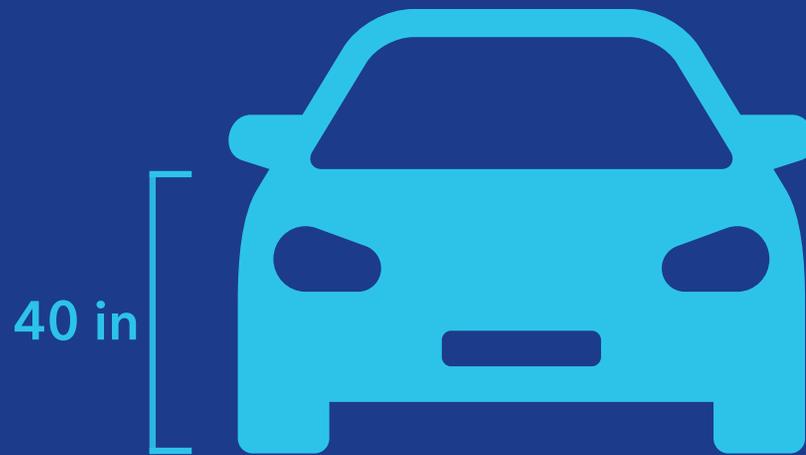
Why are illegal bus passings so dangerous?

Illegal school bus passings aren't just dangerous, they can be deadly. Even a single student fatality is one too many, which is why cars illegally passing school buses is so dangerous.

Stopping for school buses is the only way to guarantee students load and unload safely. That's because children loading or unloading may be hard to see – especially with today's taller vehicles. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the average car is nearly 8 inches taller than it was 30 years ago.

Many vehicle models now stand over 40 inches high, putting them at or above eye level for the average elementary school student.

45 in

AVERAGE HEIGHT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

40 in

AVERAGE HEIGHT OF CAR GRILL

What is the **legislation** surrounding illegal school bus passings?

While it's illegal to pass a stopped school bus in every state, not every state allows the use of automated stop-arm enforcement technology. School bus safety programs offer a proven solution to stop illegal school bus passings, but many states still lack the laws needed to implement programs like BusPatrol.

The state must enact legislation that allows a district or school to institute a safety program that holds motorists accountable for illegal school bus passings. This legislation permits school districts and local governments to use the images from stop-arm cameras to capture evidence and issue tickets to cars that pass school buses illegally.

Adopting these policies has become a growing trend in recent years. Oregon, Connecticut, and Massachusetts have all recently passed legislation enabling communities to use automated stop-arm enforcement to protect children.

States with stop-arm camera laws

States without a law

Over 29 states have enacted legislation allowing communities to adopt school bus safety technology to help combat illegal school bus passings.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE WITH
AI-POWERED TECHNOLOGY

How can artifical intelligence reduce illegal school bus passings?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer a vision of tomorrow – it's something most of us use every day, often without even realizing it. From smart light bulbs that adjust to your routine to chatbots that respond in seconds, AI is quietly making life easier behind the scenes. But its impact goes beyond convenience – it's also helping make our roads safer.

Take school bus safety, for example. AI-powered cameras can instantly detect when a driver illegally passes a stopped school bus, capturing clear video and license plate footage in real time. This technology takes the pressure off bus drivers, pedestrians, and nearby drivers, who would otherwise have to try and memorize and write down plate numbers – often while driving themselves.

Once a potential violation is flagged by AI, local law enforcement reviews the footage and issues a citation if appropriate. This helps police departments catch more offenders, even if they can't physically be there when it happens.

With thousands of school buses making millions of stops each day, most departments can't assign officers to trail every school bus. And with AI, they don't have to.

AI doesn't replace law enforcement – it strengthens it. It helps ensure more violations are caught and cited, without relying on witness testimony or taking time away from the people who saw the incident happen. That means safer streets for kids, less burden on police departments, and fewer reckless drivers putting children at risk.

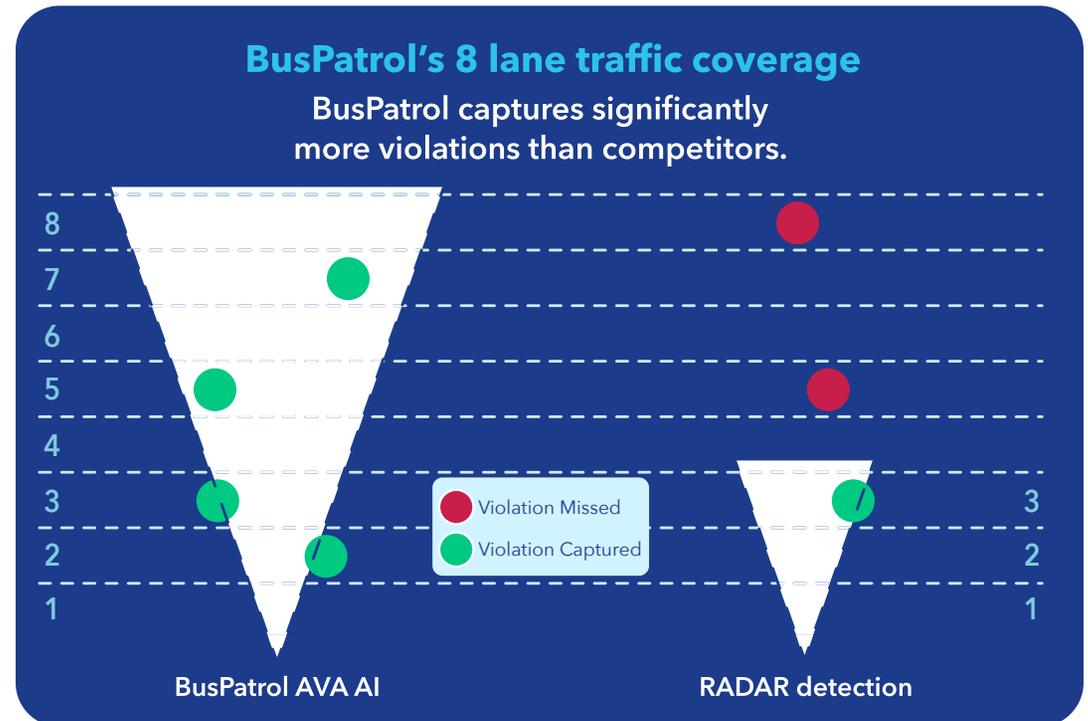# How is BusPatrol different than other stop-arm companies?

While other bus safety technology companies exist, BusPatrol is the only solution using AI to create a safer environment for students traveling to and from school. It's this focus on innovative technology, blended with innovative strategy, that sets the BusPatrol experience apart.

Advanced AI for Smarter, Faster, and More Accurate Detection

BusPatrol uses the most advanced stop-arm detection technology on the market — and it's only getting smarter. At the heart of it all is AVA, our proprietary AI engine (short for Automated Violation Analysis). AVA is designed to learn and improve constantly, making it 30% more accurate at detecting stop-arm violations than the human eye. And because it's built on true AI, not just sensors or basic automation, it gets better every day.

Unlike older systems that rely on RADAR or other outdated tools, AVA uses AI to adapt in real time. While traditional tech can capture some violations, it's less accurate — and that gap will only grow as AI continues to evolve. Outdated systems are also more prone to false positives and missed violations, which places an unnecessary burden on law enforcement, court systems, and school administrators who have to sort through unreliable data.

AVA cuts through the noise by flagging only the most likely violations for human review, reducing errors and speeding up the process. And compared to legacy tools like LIDAR or RADAR, it sees more: AVA can detect illegal passings from up to 8 lanes away, while others typically max out at 3. It's a smarter, more scalable solution built to grow with communities and protect more students today and into the future.

BusPatrol's 8 lane traffic coverage
BusPatrol captures significantly more violations than competitors.

Violation Missed
Violation Captured

BusPatrol AVA AI   RADAR detection

Full-fleet deployment means no student left behind

BusPatrol is the only automated traffic enforcement company that offers full-fleet deployment at no cost through a violator-funded program. That means every school bus in a district or township gets outfitted with stop-arm enforcement technology – not just a select few.

Sure, it might seem cost-effective to target only "high-risk" routes. But BusPatrol's mission goes beyond efficiency – it's about making every road safer and driving real behavioral change across entire communities.

Our all-in-one model ensures that no student or neighborhood is left behind. School districts and municipalities don't have to pick and choose which kids get the extra protection.

With BusPatrol, every rider benefits from the same level of safety, and every route has the support needed for consistent enforcement. It's a more equitable, community-wide approach to student safety.

Did you know?

Most enforcement programs prioritze buses and routes in urban areas due to higher population density and traffic volume. However, data suggests that traffic incidents in rural areas can be more fatal.

Why full-fleet deployment?

Complete safety data sets

for effective decision making

Equal access to technology

and safety benefits for all families

Change driver behavior

every bus becomes a center of awareness

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Industry-Leading Innovation

BusPatrol stands out among stop-arm enforcement companies for cutting-edge technology
that makes capturing violation simple from start to finish.

AI-Powered camera (overview camera)

The most advanced and accurate stop-arm enforcement technology available — and the only infraction system powered by AI.

Stop-arm camera box license plate reading cameras

High-definition license plate cameras capture up to eight lanes of bi-directional traffic — the highest road coverage in the industry.

Windshield camera

An exclusive BusPatrol feature provides an additional camera angle for enforcement officials to give even more context to road conditions.

Passenger-side loading camera

Mounts at the rear of the bus on the passenger side, facing forward to capture children as they get on or off the bus.

Mobile digital video recording mDVR system

For fast remote video retrieval: integrates state-of-the-art H.265 video compression technologies, GPS/BDS, and 4G LTE capabilities.

Antenna and high- speed cellular connectivity

Get live, full-fleet connectivity via securely transmitted program data to our AlertBus and Console platforms.

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One of the things we really liked about the BusPatrol program was having cameras on every one of our buses. This means that we are sure of capturing stop-arm violations no matter where they occur.

- Mike Hardesty, Director of Transportation, Carroll County Public Schools

How does the stop-arm enforcement process work from start to finish?

When a school bus is preparing to stop and its lights and stop-arm are activated, BusPatrol's safety technology kicks in. AI-powered stop-arm cameras automatically detect and record vehicles that illegally pass the bus.

1. Capturing the violation

A multi-lens camera box mounted on the bus captures the violation and the vehicle's license plates from multiple angles and distances. The footage — complete with GPS and timecode data — is first stored locally on a mobile digital video recorder (mDVR) installed on each bus.

Think of the mDVR like a modern version of an old cable DVR, but designed for the road. It has a high-speed processor and 4G LTE connectivity, allowing it to upload violation footage securely to the cloud for processing and review.

2. Sharing the footage

The footage related to the incident, including GPS, timecode, and video footage, is sent through an encrypted LTE network to AlertBus, BusPatrol's secure cloud platform.

3. AVA processes footage

BusPatrol's proprietary AI AVA looks at the footage first, filtering out false positives. If the incident is deemed a violation, the software creates a package of evidence for human review.

The evidence package built to comply with state law, including:

- Video footage
- License plate number
- Vehicle make & model
- Driver information
- GPS location
- Timestamp of the incident

4. BusPatrol pre-screening

As an added layer of security, trained BusPatrol employees review evidence packages, screening each package for quality assurance and compliance with specific state laws.

5. BusPatrol sends to law enforcement

The encrypted evidence package is sent from our team to local law enforcement.

6. Law enforcement reviews data

Local law enforcement receives encrypted evidence packages from AlertBus. Officers review each stop-arm incident, approving or flagging false positives to improve AVA's accuracy. If a violation is approved, law enforcement prepares a citation.

7. Violators receive citations

Once law enforcement approves a citation, BusPatrol mails the citation to the vehicle's owner.

8. Violators pay citations

Once an owner receives a violation in the mail, they can pay online, by mail, or in-person according to their municipality's guidelines. Citations can also be contested through the relevant jurisdiction's civil court system.

Violations include a toll-free number to support violator education and payment processing. The citation also includes a Violator Viewing Website, where vehicle owners can view information associated with the violation, including images and video footage.

How is the collected data protected?

Privacy is our priority. Each potential violation includes sensitive information about the drivers and their vehicles. All data is sent via an encrypted LTE network to secure cloud servers. Only law enforcement can access this information via encrypted servers. School officials do not have access to BusPatrol's external cameras.

Antennas installed on each bus enable high-speed, full-fleet connectivity, ensuring data is transmitted securely. The data BusPatrol captures is retained in accordance with state and local laws. Evidence packages are shared exclusively with law enforcement. **BusPatrol will never share data with third parties.**

How our program works

AI detects vehicle (no facial or biometric data).

Data sent via encrypted network to secure cloud server.

AI filters footage before sending it to reviewers.

Trained reviewers verify video according to state law.

Evidence package submitted to law enforcement.

Officers approve or dismiss evidence package.

Approved citations are issued to violators.

Driver makes a payment online or by mail.

Toll-free number for customer service team.

Beyond enforcement technology: BusPatrol's suite of safety tools

Route management

Use technology to optimize school bus routes, saving drivers time and districts money.

LTE connectivity

Advanced secure LTE connectivity ensures uninterrupted connection to the cloud, enabling your entire fleet to access management data and transformative technology.

Emergency response

School bus drivers can trigger an emergency SMS notification with a link to live information including images, GPS coordinates, and real-time video monitoring to authorized school transportation and law enforcement officials.

Safety cameras

Remotely access video from school bus cameras across the fleet with BusPatrol Console, a secure, web-based application for school officials. View footage from windshield, side load, rearview, and interior safety cameras.

Prince George's County Public Schools go beyond stop-arm enforcement

In Spring 2023, Prince George's County Public Schools began working with BusPatrol to help with automated stop-arm violation enforcement. In one of the most heavily commuted areas in Maryland, the district knew full-fleet deployment was its best bet to identify dangerous drivers.

Facing a state-wide bus driver shortage in the state and longer routes, Prince George's County Public Schools also installed 360° safety cameras, powered by BusPatrol technology. The cameras provide peace of mind to district parents in getting to and from school.

By the numbers:

1,270 contracted buses   **85,000** safeguarded each day   **264** daily routes

A SOLUTION TO
TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

Does automated enforcement actually reduce illegal passings?

BusPatrol has been proven to make a lasting change in driver behavior. Across all programs since 2017, over 90% of motorists who receive one school bus stop-arm violation never commit the offense again. In some communities, 98% of first-time violators never receive a second ticket.

Communities that have used BusPatrol's stop arm technology have seen a 30% reduction in the number of violations year over year. The program reverses the upward trend of illegal bus passings observed nation-wide.

Effective enforcement. Safer roads.

Less than 5% contest citations

Over 90% do not re-offend

How much are fines for first-time violators?

Most states impose a first time fine between $250 and $300 for vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses. Additional fines can be given for additional violations.

How much does BusPatrol cost?

BusPatrol's mission has always been to keep students safe, regardless of the cost of technology. We recognize many schools do not have the funding available to upgrade their fleet with BusPatrol technology.

The bus safety program is funded by violators, with no up-front cost to taxpayers or school districts. Over a set period, BusPatrol recoups the cost of the installation, with a monthly fee taken from a portion of the violation revenue.

BusPatrol is 100% financially responsible for the program, no matter the outcome.

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BusPatrol continually shows their dedication to improving the safety of students and the motoring public through a comprehensive delivery method. Their robust approach and attention to all compliance, data, legal, and operational matters, speaks volumes of their commitment to this important safety initiative.

-Adam Hornick, Chief Investigator and Director of Operations , Albany, NY

CAMERA ENFORCED

How can citation money aid the community?

With BusPatrol, partners gain access to new available funding through citation revenue, allowing communities to reinvest in safety and education initiatives. Revenue collected from the citations can go towards funding programs including school bus safety campaigns or student driver education.

Agreements with BusPatrol are a price neutral offering, meaning the district or municipality should never pay out of pocket for the program.

BusPatrol offers its stop-arm enforcement technology with no upfront costs—the cost of installation and maintenance of the technology is covered by the fines collected.

How does BusPatrol build public awareness of the stop-arm technology?

At its core, BusPatrol's mission is simple: change driver behavior — not issue tickets. And that mission begins with education.

Before any violations are recorded or citations get issued, BusPatrol launches a comprehensive public service announcement (PSA) campaign to raise awareness, inform the community, and build support. These campaigns are fully managed by BusPatrol and offered at no cost to school districts and municipalities.

To date, BusPatrol has led hundreds of successful education campaigns across the country.

Each one is tailored to the local community and designed to give drivers, parents, and students a clear understanding of school bus safety laws, local enforcement policies, and the consequences of violations.

BusPatrol's PSA campaigns include:

- Warning citation initiatives

- Press events and media coordination

- Multilingual letters for parents and guardians

- Social media toolkits

- Posters and flyers

- Robocall scripts

- Age-appropriate educational materials for students

These materials may be promoted through digital, TV, radio, and print channels to maximize reach and impact.

A key part of every rollout is a public awareness and education campaign to help motorists understand the new enforcement program and the dangers of illegal passing. In some areas, this is paired with a warning period where drivers receive warning citations instead of fines — giving them time to learn and adjust before full enforcement begins.

By prioritizing education and transparency, BusPatrol helps communities ease into enforcement, shift behavior, and create safer roads for everyone.

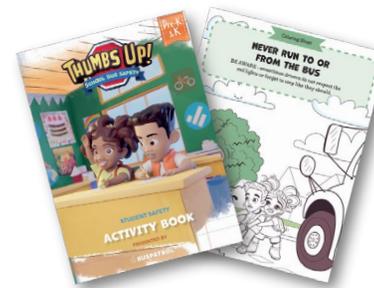"In my 10+ years with the district, we've never received this much positive press."

- Sandra Claus, Community Relations Coordinator, Phoenixville Area School District, PA

Multilingual content for parents and guardians

Posters and flyers

Age-appropriate educational materials

Social media toolkits

Media coordination

BusPatrol and Miami-Dade County Public Schools PSA

In Spring 2024, Miami-Dade County Public Schools announced its partnership with BusPatrol, launching a comprehensive public safety campaign to raise awareness and prepare the community.

The campaign began with a 30-day warning and education period. During this time, over 10,000 warning letters were issued to motorists who illegally passed stopped school buses, helping to reinforce safe driving behavior before enforcement began. More than 250,000 letters were also sent to parents and guardians – available in English, Spanish, and Creole – to ensure widespread awareness across the district.

To reach drivers where they are, the campaign was amplified across social media, the district's website, and local news outlets. A mix of compelling videos for paid social and programmatic ads generated over 669,000 impressions and more than 10,000 clicks.

Beyond digital outreach, BusPatrol also brought safety education directly to the classroom. In honor of National School Bus Safety Week, we led engaging workshops in Miami-Dade classrooms, helping students understand key safety rules like avoiding the bus's danger zone, looking both ways before crossing, and spotting potential hazards. With activity books and short films, students learned how to stay safe in a way that was both fun and memorable.

Together, these efforts helped build a strong foundation of awareness – on the road and in the classroom.

Does the program create additional work for districts?

With experience bringing stop-arm safety to schools across the country, BusPatrol has experience launching, implementing, and maintaining programs across the country. That expertise ensures there is very little work on the school district or law enforcement's part to keep the program running.

The only additional responsibility is the final reviewing of citations, which require a sworn in officer.

Everything from public relations and driver education to fleet maintenance and program management is taken care of by BusPatrol.

How does BusPatrol support local communities as a partner?

While BusPatrol's headquarters and central processing center are in Lorton, Virginia, our stop-arm enforcement programs are built to serve communities locally. Each program requires a dedicated regional team to keep things running smoothly — from reviewing violations to maintaining equipment and supporting key stakeholders.

That's why we're committed to opening operational centers in the regions we serve. These centers not only allow us to provide fast, responsive support, but they also create about 50 jobs in roles such as evidence processing, field service, program administration, and customer service.

On top of that, most municipalities bring on two additional staff members to help review evidence and approve violations before tickets are issued. The number may vary depending on how many incidents the region sees — but the cost never falls on the local police department. These roles are funded directly through ticket revenue, meaning there's no added burden to law enforcement.

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