

2024 Montana Illegal Passing Survey

TO: Business Managers, Superintendents, Transportation Supervisors and Contractors
FROM: Pupil Transportation
DATE: 04/04/2024
SUBJECT: 2024 National School Bus Illegal Passing Survey

While school buses remain incredibly safe, we all know that students are most vulnerable when they are outside the bus in the “danger zone.” Montana is assisting the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) in coordinating a **national survey to document illegal passing of school buses**. The data will help improve safety countermeasures at the state or national level.

We are requesting your assistance in this important project.

On **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**, please have your district’s school bus operators observe and report any instances of motorists illegally passing their school buses, using the [Illegal Passing Form](#). *Even drivers who have no “pass-bys” on the day of the survey should turn in the form so that we can get accurate data on how many pass-bys occur per day per bus.*

Please instruct drivers to pay particular attention to the instructions and safety precautions. As always, their primary duty is to the safety of their students. **NOTE:** Please have your drivers pay particular attention to the bottom of the form where they are instructed to *“report only illegal passes that occur while the bus driver is stopped with red warning lights flashing and stop arm(s) deployed in full compliance with our state training and procedures.”*

Please collect your district’s results and submit them no later than Friday, May 10, 2024, so this information can be reported Nationally. Completed forms should be submitted via email to DRosenthal@mt.gov

For questions regarding this survey, please contact Donell Rosenthal at (406) 461-9316.

Thank you for your help with this important initiative.