



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**ADAM J. BELLO**  
MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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## COUNTY EXECUTIVE ADAM BELLO ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM IN GREECE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*GCSD becomes the fourth Monroe County district to deploy BusPatrol stop arm camera systems in effort to protect students from motorists illegally passing stopped school buses; motorists who pass stopped buses face fines of up to \$300*

**ROCHESTER, NY** — Monroe County Executive Adam Bello today announced the March 15, 2024 launch of the Monroe County School Bus Safety Program in the Greece Central School District. A partnership with stop-arm enforcement technology provider BusPatrol, all suburban districts in Monroe County are eligible to participate in this program, with approval by their boards of education.

Thus far, the technology has been deployed in the Hilton, East Irondequoit and Webster central school districts, and the systems will come online soon in the Pittsford and Spencerport central school districts, as well as within areas served by the Monroe #1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES 1). The Rochester City School District is not eligible to participate in the county program, but the City of Rochester may initiate its own similar program, if City Council approves.

*"Since this program began late last year in the Hilton, East Irondequoit and Webster school districts, BusPatrol's stop arm cameras have captured video of an astounding 1,200 instances of motorists putting children in danger by speeding past stopped school buses," said County Executive Bello. "Those numbers prove the need for this program, which helps ensure our kids will be safe when they're getting on or off a school bus. I welcome the Greece Central School District to Monroe County's School Bus Safety Program and encourage all other county districts to join us in putting the safety of our kids first."*

*"Our bus drivers transport more than 9,000 students every day and it is concerning that they frequently witness motorists passing by while students are boarding or exiting the bus," said Greece Central School District Superintendent Kathleen Graupman. "We are optimistic that this new partnership will help educate drivers on the necessity of stopping in all directions when the red stop arm lights are activated. Keeping students safe requires everyone's cooperation."*

*"As both the President of the Greece Central School Board and your County Legislator, I am incredibly grateful to have witnessed the development of this program from its inception to its implementation. In both of my roles, I know that the well-being and safety of our children are of the utmost importance, and the School Bus Stop Arm program will do just that," said Monroe County Legislator Sean McCabe, also president of the Greece Central School District Board of Education. "As a member of the County Legislature, I am proud to have played a role in making this opportunity available to our local schools, and as the school board President, I am thrilled to see it now being put into action within our district. Today's announcement should serve as a clear warning to reckless drivers in the Town of Greece - if you endanger the safety of our students, we will hold you accountable."*

In participating districts, the violator-funded safety program kicks off with a 30-day warning period where motorists whose vehicles are recorded passing a stopped bus are issued a reminder that passing a stopped bus is a violation of State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Under the law, when a school bus is stopped with its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended, traffic approaching from either direction must stop before reaching the bus, whether on a two-lane road, multi-lane highway, or on divided highway.

Once the warning period expires, motorists are issued a civil fine of \$250 for a first offense, with subsequent violations subject to a \$25 increase, up to a maximum of \$300. The program does not impose points on driver's licenses or affect automobile insurance rates. Prior to tickets being issued, all photos and video of vehicles passing buses are verified by the Monroe County Department of Public Safety. Greece's system goes live on Friday, March 15 and the warning period will expire April 14.

The BusPatrol system went live in the Hilton school district on October 16, 2023, and shortly thereafter in the East Irondequoit and Webster districts. Since that time, stop arm cameras have recorded over 330 violations within Hilton, over 544 in East Irondequoit and over 325 in Webster.

*"We're proud to partner with Monroe County to put a stop to illegal motorist behavior around school buses," said Karoon Monfared, CEO of BusPatrol. "Our stop-arm safety program combines education and enforcement to make roads safer for everyone. In fact, our program is proven to reduce the frequency of illegal passing by up to 40% each year. We look forward to working with Greece Central, Hilton, East Irondequoit, Webster, and other County districts to drive this change and proactively improve student safety."*

Last year, the National Association of State Director of Pupil Transportation (NASDPTS) announced that the rate of school bus illegal passings is at an epidemic level. Survey results suggest that school buses are illegally passed more than 41.8 million times per year in the United States. Just a few months into Monroe County's School Bus Safety Program, data indicates drivers here pass stopped school buses multiple times each day.

Resources and more information about Monroe County's stop-arm camera safety program can be found at [www.monroecounty.gov/school-bus-safety](http://www.monroecounty.gov/school-bus-safety).

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