GLOUCESTER COUNTY SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

Gloucester County Public Schools has partnered with Gloucester County Sheriff's Office to launch a School Bus Safety Stop-Arm Program to safeguard students on the journey to and from school. School buses in Gloucester County Public Schools are now equipped with advanced safety technology, including AI-powered stop-arm cameras to deter motorists from illegally passing stopped school buses.

To speak to a representative about a stop-arm violation, contact the AlertBus Customer Contact Center at 1-877-504-7080.

Read on to learn more about the program.

How Does the Gloucester County School Bus Safety Program Work?

Gloucester County Public Schools and Gloucester County Sheriff's Office have partnered to launch a School Bus Safety Program. As part of the program, school buses will be equipped with the 360° Student Safety Platform, including stop-arm cameras, DVR and storage devices, GPS, and LTE connectivity.

Who Are Stop-Arm Violation Tickets Issued to, and How Much Will They Cost Violators?

Stop-arm cameras identify illegal passersby license plate number. Tickets are issued to a vehicle's registered owner unless the automobile is proven stolen during the time of the offense. If someone other than the vehicle's owner was driving at the time, the owner can request a transfer of liability.

In Virginia, a first-time stop-arm violation carries a fine of \$250. In addition to the financial deterrent, violators learn about the potential dangers of their actions. Offenders can call the program's toll-free number and speak with a representative, who can review the video evidence and help them understand the dangers of illegal passing. Services are offered in both English and Spanish.

Data from other safety programs demonstrates that 98% of first-time offenders do not receive a second ticket, and 95% of drivers do not contest their ticket after seeing video evidence of their violation.

When Should I Stop for a School Bus in Virginia

Drivers are required to follow certain laws when encountering a school bus. Virginia motorists must:

- stop for stopped school buses with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign when approaching from any direction
- remain stopped until everyone is clear and the bus moves again
- stop whenever the bus is loading or unloading passengers, even if the lights and stop sign are not activated

If a school bus is on the opposite side of a raised median or barrier, motorists aren't required to stop; however, drivers should be prepared for students exiting the school bus and crossing into their lanes.

Learn more at Virginia DMV.

How to Pay a Citation

To pay your citation by credit card, go to <u>www.alertbus.com</u> and enter your citation number and license plate number.

To pay by phone, call 1-877-504-7080 and follow the automated prompts. Please have your citation number and credit/debit card ready. This option is for full payments only.

Checks and money orders should be made payable to School Bus Stop Arm Safety Program. Mail the payment form at the bottom of your citation, along with your payment to School Bus Stop Arm Safety Program, P. O. Box 1310, Newington, VA 22122.

Contact Information

To speak to a representative about a stop-arm violation, contact the Alertbus Customer Contact Center at <u>1-877-504-7080</u>.

The Contact Center is available Monday to Friday (8 AM – 5 PM). To expedite our service, please have your Citation Number ready when you call.

To view the violation video evidence online or to pay a violation by credit card, visit <u>www.alertbus.com</u> and enter the following information: Your citation number (example: VA-777777), and vehicle license plate number (no dashes or spaces), as listed on your citation.