**WALLINGFORD STOP ARM ENFORCEMENT**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is automated stop-arm enforcement?**

School districts around the country are using automated stop-arm enforcement to curb dangerous driving behaviors on school bus routes. A safety camera system is installed on the exterior driver’s side of a school bus. It monitors and detects drivers who illegally pass school buses when the stop-arm is deployed and red lights are displayed, endangering the lives of children as they enter and exit the bus.

**Why is this type of photo enforcement needed?**

Stop arm photo enforcement is a tool law enforcement can use to protect children from motorists who illegally pass a stopped school bus.

* It serves as a “force multiplier,” allowing local law enforcement to refocus their energies on other high-priority tasks while still ensuring the safety of students who ride Gwinnett school buses.
* It automatically detects violations – no action is needed by the bus driver.
* It serves as a deterrent to breaking the law. The presence of the system itself causes drivers to think twice before passing a school bus.
* It increases awareness about school bus safety in our community. Stop-arm enforcement sparks a vital community conversation about student pedestrians and mindful driving.

**How does the safety camera system work?**

1. External camera systems are installed on the exterior driver’s side of a school bus.
2. The camera systems automatically monitor traffic when the bus stop-arm is deployed and red lights are displayed, allowing the bus driver to stay focused on the children.
3. The cameras are only triggered to capture data as a vehicle passes the bus while children are entering and exiting.
4. This data is reviewed and processed into an evidence file.
5. A school resource officer determines whether a violation is warranted.

**What kind of data is captured by the safety cameras?**

The safety camera systems generate the following data for law enforcement:

* Hi-resolution still images
* Video detailing the incident
* Date, time, and location of each incident

**How much does this program cost taxpayers?**

There is no cost to the school district for this program. The program is fully funded by the fines from violations.

**Are the cameras always rolling?**

No, the cameras are only triggered to capture data of a vehicle as it passes a school bus while the stop arm is deployed and the red lights are displayed.

**How much is the fine for illegally passing a school bus?**

The fine for illegally passing a school bus in Wallingford, CT is $450.00.