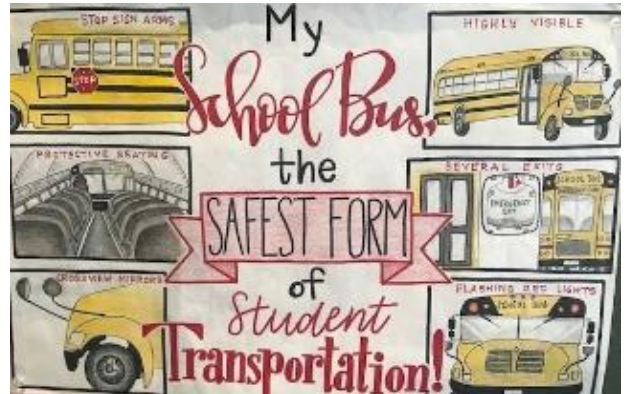


## Santa Fe ISD Increases Student Transportation Safety



SFISD's first priority in the transportation program is the safety of our students. This school year, approximately 3,500 students are transported by 54 drivers on 46 buses with over 116 routes on a daily basis.

Bus Safety Week will be celebrated the week of October 21-25, 2019. The theme is "My School Bus the Safest Form of Student Transportation." This week is set aside to promote safety when loading, unloading and while riding on the bus.

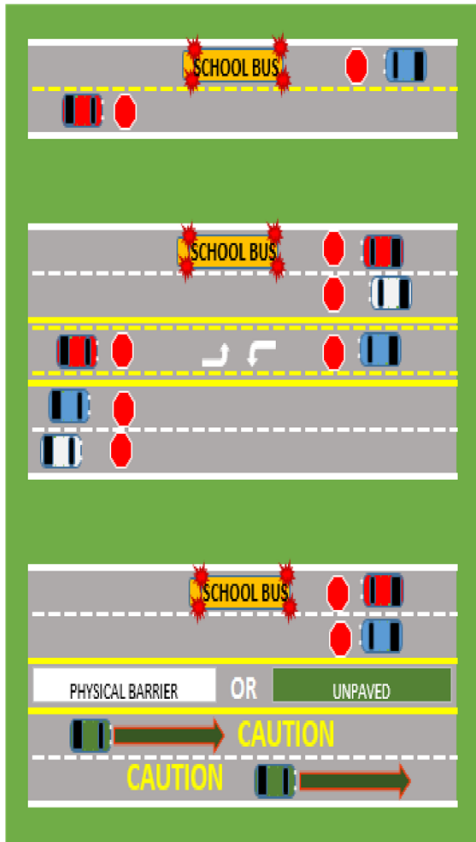


In an effort to increase student safety the City of Santa Fe passed Ordinance 02-2019, allowing for camera enforcement of school bus stop arm violations. To take advantage of this opportunity, Santa Fe ISD has entered into an agreement with Verra Mobility to provide the cameras and image processing. The cameras were installed in August and began capturing violations on September 16, 2019. A one-month warning period started September 16, with warning notices being mailed to violators shortly thereafter. Beginning October 16, 2019, citations will be issued for violations in the amount of \$300. The violations are issued to the registered owner of the car, much like a parking ticket. There is an appeals process that allows for contesting the citation by mail or in person.

A Department of Public Safety news release from August 8, 2018, explains the requirements for stopping for a loading or unloading bus:

"State law requires that drivers stop when a bus is stopped and operating a visual signal – either red flashing lights or a stop sign. Drivers should not proceed until the school bus resumes motion; the driver is signaled by the bus driver to proceed; or the visual signal is no longer activated. Approaching drivers do not have to stop for a school bus that is operating a visual signal if the roadway is separated by a physical barrier or an intervening space. (If a highway is divided *only* by a left-turning lane, the roadways are not considered separated, and drivers must stop for school buses.)"

# What do I do when the school bus stops and the flashing lights come on with the stop sign out?



Two Lane Undivided Road all traffic in both directions stops.

Multiple Lane Road with no Physical Divider or Median all traffic in both directions stops, including turning lane.

Multiple Lane Road with Physical Barrier or Unpaved Median traffic travelling the same direction as the bus must stop. Traffic travelling in the opposite direction may proceed with caution.

## LOVE THE BUS = LOVE OUR SFISD STUDENTS!

## STOP FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING BUSES!

Please remember that passing a school bus on an undivided highway is illegal. For example, passing a school bus when the Stop Arm is out on Highway 6, FM 646, or Highway 1764 is considered an illegal pass since this is not a divided highway. The work to improve safety and security in Santa Fe ISD is ongoing.



A Santa Fe ISD bus with installed camera system.



A close up view of camera system with license plate reader and OverWatch video camera.



SFISD Police Officers training for violation approval process. Verra Mobility reports that only 1 percent of violators have a repeat offense.