

9325 Battle St., Manassas,
VA 20110

(214) 280-7891
David.Ocamb@OcambGroup.com
<http://www.ocambgroup.com>



MEDIA FINDINGS MEMO

New Survey: Parents Say Dangerous Driving Around Schools Is Common –and Want Stronger Enforcement

September 2026

A new national survey conducted for the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) on behalf of BusPatrol finds dangerous driving around schools and school buses is both common and deeply personal for many families. The research also shows overwhelming support for stronger enforcement—including automated enforcement—to better protect children traveling to and from school.

TOP TAKEAWAYS

- **46%** of parents whose children ride a school bus say **their own child** has experienced a close call near a school bus or school zone.
- **91%** support automated stop-arm enforcement.
- **53%** believe dangerous driving continues because drivers do not think they'll get caught.

Key Findings

Close calls are common among families who rely on school buses.

Nearly half (46%) of parents whose children ride a school bus say their child has experienced a close call involving dangerous driving near a school bus or school zone. Across all parents, more than one in three (36%) report their child has experienced a similar close call, and 43% know another child who has—underscoring how widespread these incidents have become.

Parents believe the problem is not a lack of awareness—it is a lack of accountability.

Parents overwhelmingly recognize the dangers around schools and school buses. Nine in ten (91%) say illegally passing a stopped school bus is dangerous, and 95% say speeding in school zones is a serious threat. Yet a majority (53%) believe dangerous driving continues because drivers assume they will not get caught.

Parents overwhelmingly support stronger enforcement.

Support exceeded 88% for every safety countermeasure tested.

- **92%** support public education campaigns.
 - **91%** support the use of automated stop-arm enforcement.
 - **90%** support visible police enforcement.
 - **88%** support the use of school-zone speed enforcement cameras.
-

Noteworthy Statistics

- **36%** say their own child has experienced a close call.
 - **43%** know another child who has experienced a close call.
 - **91%** support the use of automated stop-arm enforcement.
 - **90%** support visible police enforcement.
 - **95%** say speeding in school zones is a serious threat.
 - **53%** believe dangerous driving continues because drivers assume they won't get caught.
-

Parents' Voices

Parents consistently describe the same problems – and the same solutions.

When parents described dangerous situations in their own words, they repeatedly told the same story: drivers ignoring school bus stop arms, speeding through school zones, and engaging in distracted driving that nearly resulted in tragedy.

"A couple of years ago, my neighbor's child was stepping off the bus and starting to cross the two-lane residential street. The bus had its red lights flashing and the stop sign arm fully extended. A distracted driver in an SUV completely ignored the bus signals and sped right past the driver's side of the bus. Luckily, the bus driver honked the horn loudly, which made the child freeze in place just in time as the car flew by."

"My child was getting on the bus and someone tried passing on the side my child was walking on and almost struck my child."

"[A] child was crossing in front of the bus while the lights were flashing and the stop sign was out. A car swerved and came within feet of the child."

When asked what local leaders should do to improve safety, parents consistently emphasized accountability through enforcement using technology.

"Having automated stop-arm cameras installed on every school bus to instantly catch and ticket drivers who illegally pass them would make a huge difference. It would also help to have more crossing guards stationed at the busiest intersections near the school zones during drop-off and pick-up hours."

"I really believe a discreet automated camera that can document violators and automatically upload to a system for law enforcement to review and cite when applicable. A discreet system will keep drivers in check after the public is advised of the new enforcement mechanism for school buses and school zones."

"Install stop-arm cameras on all school buses in the district. Automated ticketing for drivers who illegally pass buses would be the single most effective action to improve safety."

Taken together, the findings point to a clear conclusion: parents believe dangerous driving around schools is not an isolated problem but a recurring safety issue that requires stronger accountability, education, and enforcement.

Methodology

A total of **525 U.S. parents**, with children ages 6–17 living at home, were surveyed between **June 16–25, 2026**. Separate oversamples included **250 parents in Texas** and **251 parents in Ohio**, interviewed between **June 26–28, 2026**.