

Passing a School Bus in Georgia: Laws, Fines

The fine for illegally passing a Georgia school bus that is stopped with flashing lights can be up to \$1,000.00.

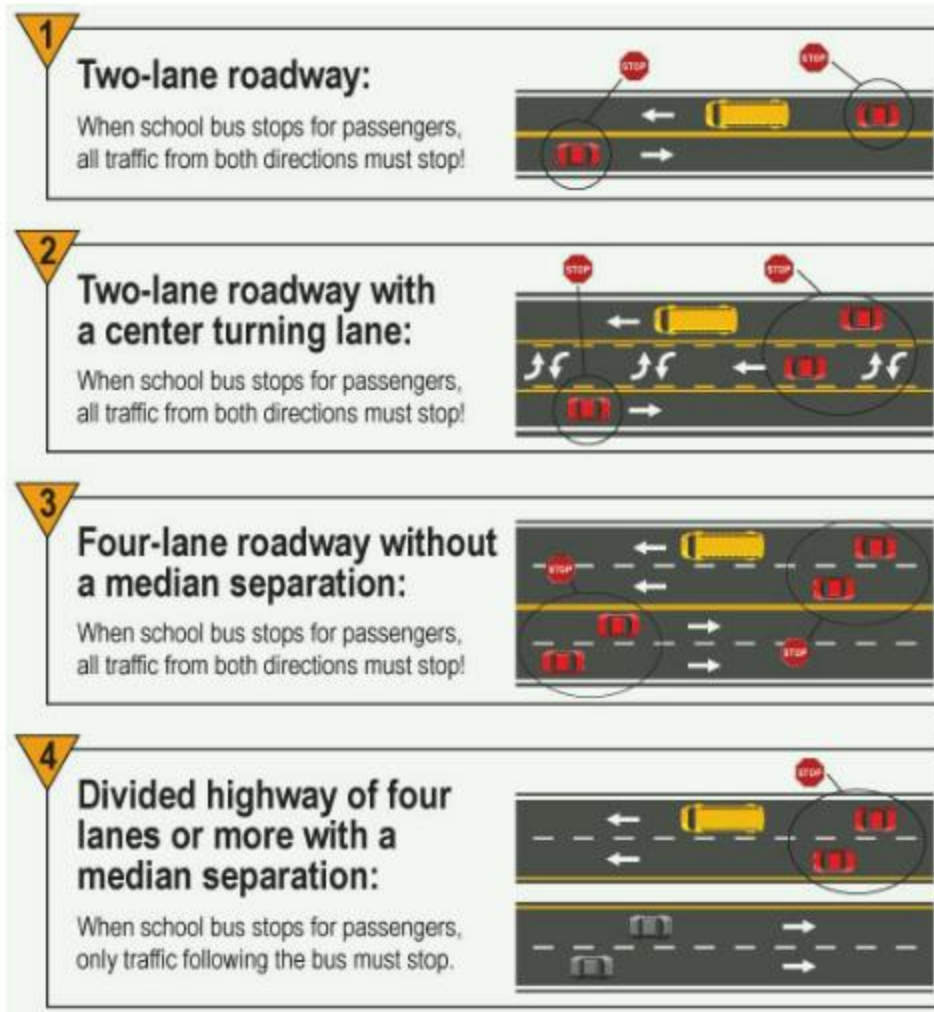
With another school year underway in Georgia, police across the state are reminding drivers to watch for children crossing the road. They are also encouraging drivers not illegally pass school buses stopped for the loading and unloading of children, doing so will result in a hefty fine.

It is against the law for a car to pass a bus that is stopped with its lights flashing and stop sign arm extended. Police are reminding drivers that traffic in **both directions** must stop for a school bus if there is no dividing median on the road.

If the police see a driver illegally passing a school bus, the police can pull the driver over and issue a moving violation that carries a fine as high as \$1,000. Other penalties include a mandatory court appearance; up to six points on your driving record; and a possible license suspension for drivers under 21 years old. Also keep in mind; school buses are now coming equipped with cameras that will show anyone passing the bus while it is loading or unloading children.

The greatest risk for children is when they walk up to or leave a bus. While an average of seven school-age passengers are killed in school bus crashes each year, 19 are killed getting on and off the bus, state transportation officials say. Most of those killed are children, 5 to 7 years old. They are hit near the bus either by a passing vehicle or by the school bus itself. If you have children, please remind them as well about the safety rules to ensure their safe arrival and departure to and from school.

The [state of Georgia](#) has reminders about the basic rules of the road, including how to drive safely around school buses.



For any additional information contact Officer T. Greene #1471 at Trent.Greene@GwinnettCounty.Com. In the meantime drive safe and stay safe.