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Don't pass a school bus when children are getting on or off. We're watching.

The police department's traffic section and the marshals from municipal court are teaming up with Durham School Services to educate drivers about the stop signs and red lights that bus drivers activate when children are getting on or getting off of the bus. Durham is the company that provides bus service for the Burleson Independent School District.

On any given day, a marshal from municipal court will be riding the school bus. When he sees a driver pass a bus that has the stop sign and/or red lights activated, the marshal will radio an officer in the Burleson Police Department's traffic unit, and that traffic officer will stop the violator.

Drivers, regardless of which direction you are approaching the school bus (and students are getting on or off the bus), must stop before reaching the school bus when the bus is operating a visual signal. Drivers may not proceed until the school bus resumes driving; the bus driver signals other drivers to proceed; or the visual signal is no longer activated. It is Durham policy that bus drivers will not signal other drivers to proceed.

Illegally passing a school bus is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 to \$1,250. If the driver is convicted a second time or a second offense is committed within five years, the fine increases to \$1,000-\$2,000. The charge becomes a Class A misdemeanor if the driver causes serious bodily injury to another person. If the person has been previously convicted of a Class A misdemeanor the charge becomes a state jail felony.

School zone hours in Burleson are 7 a.m.-8 a.m. and 2:40 p.m.-3:40 p.m. for elementary campuses; 7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m. for middle school campuses; and 8 a.m.-9 a.m. and 4 p.m.-5 p.m. for high school campuses. School zones exist on South Dobson Street, East Miller Street, South Lawson Street, East Ellison Street, South Hurst Road, Blayke Street, Hillside Drive, Collett Street, Southwest Thomas Street, Northwest Newton Street, Northwest Tarrant Street, Lynnewood Avenue, Evelyn Lane, Gardens Boulevard, East Renfro Street, Northeast Alsbury Boulevard, Elk Drive, Southwest Murphy Street, Southeast Gregory Street, Irene Street, Southeast Dian Street, Southwest Johnson Avenue, Summercrest Boulevard, McAlister, West Bend, Cedar Ridge, Northwest Park Meadow, Wilshire Boulevard/Hwy.174, Ranchway Drive, and FM 1902.