



**YONKERS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



*Innovation • Inspiration • Excellence for All*

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**Luis Rodríguez, J.D., M.P.H., M.S.Ed.**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

September 22, 2023

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Learning Community,

As we continue preparations for the school year, I am pleased to announce an important initiative that reinforces our commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our students, during their daily commute. Starting this fall, in partnership with the City of Yonkers, we will be launching a School Bus Safety Program called, *Yonkers Safe Stop*.

The safety and well-being of our students remain our utmost priority. With the implementation of this program, we are taking proactive steps to address a critical concern - the illegal passing of school buses when their stop-arms are extended and red lights are flashing. This dangerous behavior poses a significant risk to our students and cannot be tolerated.

*Yonkers Safe Stop* is designed to reduce the number of violations and injuries caused by people who disregard the school bus stop-arm; protecting our children as they board and leave the school bus and cross the road.

Here are some key details about the program:

1. **\*\*Camera Installation:\*\***

### SCHOOL BUS STOP-ARM SAFETY CAMERAS

#### HOW IT WORKS

- Step 1** Video cameras are installed at key locations on the exterior of the school bus.
- Step 2** When a school bus extends its stop arm, the system automatically uses radar detection to capture a vehicle passing the stopped bus within the enforced zone.
- Step 3:** When a vehicle passes the school bus, the cameras record video showing the violating vehicle.
- Step 4** The event images extracted from the video include not only the vehicle as it passes the school bus, but also the vehicle's license plate and the extended stop arm of the bus. The video of the vehicle is provided as further evidence of the event.
- Step 5** Event data and images are then wirelessly uploaded to Vera Mobility's back-office via a secure VPN for event processing per business rules.
- Step 6** Trained Parking Violations Bureau (PVB) technicians review the evidence and determine whether a violation has occurred.
- Step 7** If PVB determines the event is a violation, a notice of liability is issued and mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

2. **\*\*Enforcement:\*\*** Violators will be subject to appropriate legal actions, including fines, in accordance with NY traffic laws and regulations.
3. **\*\*Education and Awareness:\*\*** We will be releasing program information and statistics to educate our community about the importance of stopping for school buses. This will foster a safer environment for our students.
4. **\*\*Implementation Timeline:\*\*** The program will be launched this fall. The Yonkers Safe Stop Program will include a 30-day warning period. In the first 30 days after the program has launched, violators who pass a stopped school bus with the stop-arm extended and red lights flashing will be issued a warning. After the 30-days, Notices of Liability will be issued.

We urge all drivers to be vigilant and responsible when sharing the road with school buses. It is our collective responsibility to protect the lives of our students and ensure their safe journey to and from school.

As we prepare for the launch of this program with the City of Yonkers, we will be providing more detailed information in the coming weeks, including specific dates, and resources which can be found here: [www.yonkersny.gov/safestop](http://www.yonkersny.gov/safestop). We are confident that the Yonkers *Safe Stop* Program will enhance the overall safety of our students and contribute to a more secure school environment.

We kindly request your support and cooperation in spreading the word about this initiative among your fellow community members, friends, and neighbors. Let us work together to create a culture of safety around our school buses.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making our district a safe and nurturing environment for our students. With your support, we look forward to the successful launch of the Yonkers *Safe Stop* Program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Transportation Department at 914-376-8015.

Sincerely,



Dr. Luis Rodríguez  
LR/nmr