



# TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske  
(608) 266-7015

## The Importance of School Bus Safety

During the school year, there are thousands upon thousands of children boarding school buses daily all across the nation. It is important for our children to be able to get to school and back home safely without having to worry about being hit by an impatient driver that is swerving around many of these buses.

One of the biggest worries and fears as a parent is that our children are going to be able to make it to and from school safely, a bus stop is a part of that equation.

As a child you typically are not aware nor do you think about getting off the bus and having to worry about getting hit by a vehicle as they are passing the school bus. We always try to teach our youth to look both ways before crossing the street, but sometimes the excitement of going to school or coming home to their parents or guardians overwhelms them.

When you see a school bus stopped ahead with the flashing red stop sign, it is a signal that there are children getting on or off the school bus and to approach with caution. A vehicle must stop not less than 20 feet from the bus and not go until the red lights stop flashing. However, this law does not apply to vehicles driving in the opposite direction unless there is no barrier or median. In our rural communities, this is typically not the case so vehicles must stop that are going in either direction.

Currently, there is a \$30 to \$300 fine given to those that fail to stop when the red lights are flashing and the stop sign is displayed. The biggest thing to remember is that patience matters and make sure to take caution when a bus is stopped on the side of the road.

Please visit the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's website at the following link to learn more about school bus safety: <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/safety/equipment/sch-bus/law.aspx>. In addition, the following link will take you to the Wisconsin rules and regulations relating to transportation of school children:

[http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/trans/300](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/trans/300)

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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