



# SCHOOL BUS - MOTORIST REFRESHER FROM SALEM POLICE DEPT.



**The Salem Police Department would like to remind everyone about properly stopping for school buses on West Main Street. In recent weeks, Patrol Officers have stopped and issued citations to motorists who have driven past a stationary school bus even though the bus' stop lights and stop sign were both activated.**

**West Main Street is an undivided highway without any physical barriers which means motorists must stop for stopped school buses when they are traveling in the same direction of the bus or approaching it from the opposite direction. Motorists need to pay close attention to the areas near Walmart and the Greenhill Inn which are daily bus stops.**

**Currently, passing a stopped school bus is considered reckless driving in Virginia. This offense carries up to 12 months in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine.**

**The Salem Police Department will aggressively enforce any infraction involving motorist who pass a stopped school bus.  
Please, pay attention so we do not have to issue you a ticket.**

**Listed below is the code section for passing a stopped school bus in Virginia.**

## ***THE LAW***

**§ 46.2-859. Passing a stopped school bus; prima facie evidence.**

**A person driving a motor vehicle shall stop such vehicle when approaching, from any direction, any school bus which is stopped on any highway, private road or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons, and shall remain stopped until all the persons are clear of the highway, private road or school driveway and the bus is put in motion; any person violating the foregoing is guilty of reckless driving. The driver of a vehicle, however, need not stop when approaching a school bus if the school bus is stopped on the other roadway of a divided highway, on an access road, or on a driveway when the other roadway, access road, or driveway is separated from the roadway on which he is driving by **a physical barrier or an unpaved area**. The driver of a vehicle also need not stop when approaching a school bus which is loading or discharging passengers from or onto property immediately adjacent to a school if the driver is directed by a law-enforcement officer or other duly authorized uniformed school crossing guard to pass the school bus. This section shall apply to school buses which are equipped with warning devices prescribed in § 46.2-1090 and are painted yellow with the words "School Bus" in black letters at least eight inches high on the front and rear thereof. Only school buses which are painted yellow and equipped with the required lettering and warning devices shall be identified as school buses.**

**MORE INFORMATION: Salem Police Department - 375-3078**