

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

August 1, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: School Bus Safety Camera Program (06-25-18-10)

Question

When discussing Consent Item 7.16 Fiscal Year 2018 Supplemental Appropriation for School Bus Safety Camera Program, Ms. Ortman-Fouse requested information regarding the work staff is doing with the county regarding education and signage about this program, noting that community members have expressed confusion about whether to stop for school buses on certain streets.

Response

Following the launch of the school bus camera enforcement program more than four years ago, staff in the departments of Transportation and Communications worked with the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and the Montgomery County Government to increase awareness about the school bus camera enforcement program and Maryland laws. Details regarding the efforts of this collaboration follow.

- Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and MCPD issued press releases.
- The MCPD *School Bus Safety* [website](#) provides information on the school bus camera enforcement program and what drivers need to do when approaching or following a school bus. The law states motorists traveling in both directions, regardless of how many travel lanes or the presence of a turn lane, must stop and remained stopped until the school bus red lights are turned off. The only time a motorist does not have to stop is when traveling in the opposite direction of a school bus on a multi-lane highway that is divided by a physical barrier. In that case, only traffic following the school bus must stop.
- MCPD provides handouts, [Respect the Bus](#) and [Understanding the School Bus Law](#), to increase awareness.

- In partnership with MCPD and County Government, MCPS TV produced 30-second and 60-second Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that aired on Montgomery County cable television stations to inform residents that MCPS buses are equipped with cameras to enforce school bus passing laws. These PSAs are available on the MCPS TV [web page](#) (in English and Spanish).
- Videos and PSAs also may be viewed on YouTube to increase awareness about school bus safety.
- At this time, signage about enforcement programs is not permitted on school buses; we will pursue additional communication and outreach efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, at 240-740-3050 or Mr. Todd M. Watkins, director, Department of Transportation, at 301-840-8130.

JRS:AMZ:sro

Copy to:

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