

New York State

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Leading the Way



The NYS PTA launched a widely successful traffic initiative, Every Child Travels Safely, with support from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

We have held dozens and dozens of family and child educational events in schools across the state on traffic safety issues, including school bus safety, bike/scooter safety, pedestrian safety, and seat belt safety.

Sadly, motor vehicle deaths continue to be the leading cause of death of children.

Often, the school bus is the safest way for children to get to school, but 50,000 New York motorists pass a stopped school year every day in New York State!

Every Child Travels Safely

We fully support proposals which would allow school districts to install stop-arm cameras to record illegal passing of the school buses.

We also support increased fines for passing a school bus from \$250-\$400 to \$500-\$750 for a first offense, from \$600-\$750 to \$1,000-\$1,250 for a second offense, and from \$750-\$1,000 to \$1,250-\$1,500 for a third offense.

We call on policy makers to review new guidance from the National Transportation Safety Board which calls for the use of three-point harnesses on school buses.

Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of school buses are only equipped with two-point harnesses (lap belts) and lack the necessary shoulder belt as typical in a traditional motor vehicle.

Three-point harnesses are the ideal safety restraint.

To ensure the highest of safety standards for our students, districts will need adequate resources and support to move from two-point safety harnesses to three-point harnesses.

For more information, please contact Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky, Esq., NYS PTA Executive Director at execdirector@nyspta.org, 518-452-8808