



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACS drives home bus safety with a K-5 coloring contest as part of National School Bus Safety Week

Fort Wayne, Ind. (Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021) –Northwest Allen County Schools Transportation Center, with the help of elementary school administrators, introduced a district-wide coloring contest last week among students in grades kindergarten through 5. The goal was to drive home bus safety messages with students for National School Bus Safety Week which runs Oct. 18-22.

Each day this week a theme of the day is shared during morning announcements at the elementary schools to emphasize different bus safety messages. The awareness week encourages school communities to review bus safety practices among parents, students, teachers, school administrators, motorists and school bus operators.

On Monday, contest winners will be notified and receive small awards from NACS Transportation. One student from each elementary school will be selected totaling eight winners.

Media will be invited to attend at least award Monday, Oct. 25. Details will be shared later this week.

NACS transports students more than one-million miles during a typical school year. Transportation had fewer bus riders last year as a result of the pandemic, so mileage was in the 800,000-mile range.

Although NACS, along with the other three Allen County Public School districts joined forces with area law enforcement two years ago to reduce stop-arm violations in Allen County, this safety hazard is still prevalent. Parkview Health Trauma Services assisted with financial support of the awareness campaign which took a back seat once COVID-19 surfaced.

“I can tell you that stop-arm violations still happen here every day,” said Natalie Hoffman, director of transportation, Northwest Allen County Schools. “Our drivers have only reported 12 stop-arm violations this year, however, they are only reported if the driver secures a plate number. Otherwise, records aren’t kept. We encourage the community to slow down and stop when you see a bus nearby.”

The most recent national school bus stop-arm violation survey day was April of 2019. The pandemic prevented schools from participating in the national survey in 2020 and 2021.

MORE)

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Northwest Allen County Schools believes in providing a healthy and safe learning environment that engages, supports, and challenges each learner in a culture of achievement and excellence.



The 2019 survey resulted in the following:

INDIANA:

- 6,800 bus drivers participated statewide
- 2,700 stop-arm violations were reported in one day
- 104 of those passed the bus on the right, the door-side of the bus

NATIONWIDE:

39 states participated

131,345 drivers participated

95,494 stop-arm violations in one day

1,997 stop-arm violators passed the bus on the right, the door-side of the bus

Other safety stats:

- Students are 70 times safer traveling on a bus than in a car.
- Only 126 occupants were killed in school transportation vehicles between 2010 and 2019. Of those fatalities, 58 were drivers and 68 were passengers.

Northwest Allen County Schools believes in providing a healthy and safe learning environment that engages, supports and challenges each learner in a culture of achievement and excellence. More information about NACS may be found at nacs.k12.in.us. NACS serves and estimated 7,922 students in 11 schools spanning three townships covering 108 square miles in Allen County.

The National School Bus Safety Week program is hosted by:



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