



“Our children are starting back school. We all can play a part in making it a safe school year by obeying the posted speeds, especially where our children are traveling and in school zones. Be cautious and patient as buses travel their routes, don’t pass a stopped bus. Let’s all work together to make it safe for our children.” - Gulfport Police Chief Leonard Papania

With the 2015/16 school year quickly approaching, the [Gulfport Police Department](#) wanted to address some concerns regarding motorists passing stopped school buses and speeding in school zones. In December of 2009, a bill known as “Nathan’s Law” was submitted and passed by the state legislature as a result of the death of Nathan Key.

As stated in the amended Mississippi Code of 1972, the driver of a vehicle upon a street or highway upon meeting or overtaking any school bus which has stopped on the street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children shall come to a complete stop and shall not proceed until the children have crossed the street or highway and the school bus has proceeded in the direction it was going.

Motorists should be mindful of this statute and that children sometimes cross in front of the stopped school bus upon exiting it. Therefore, motorists should be more cautious when they see a stopped school bus or a bus slowing to stop.

Any person stopped for this violation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction for a 1st offense, they shall be fined not less than \$350.00, no more than \$750.00, and/or imprisonment up to 1 year. For each subsequent offense, the fines and imprisonment terms increase along with the possibility of suspension of your driver’s license. The important fact to remember is that a child’s safety is of utmost importance. If this action results in an INJURY or DEATH, the violator will be charged with aggravated assault (felony) and may face fines up to \$5000 and or imprisonment up to 30 years.

Potential incidents occurring from this violation are preventable. Please be patient. The child crossing the street after exiting a school bus may be your own.



City School Zones



School	Morning School Zone Time	School Time	Afternoon School Zone Time
Central Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1430	1415 – 1445
Anniston Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1430	1415 – 1445
Gaston Point Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1430	1415 – 1445
West Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1430	1415 – 1445
Bayou View Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1430	1415 – 1445
Pass Road Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1430	1415 – 1445
28 th Street Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1430	1415 – 1445
Bayou View Middle	0715 – 0800	0800 – 1500	1500 – 1530
Central Middle	0715 – 0800	0800 – 1500	1500 – 1530
Gulfport High School	0745 – 0830	0830 – 1530	1530 – 1600
The Learning Center	0730 – 0815	0815 – 1430	1430 – 1500
Three Rivers Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1415	1400 – 1430
Bel-Aire Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1415	1400 – 1430
Crossroads Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1415	1400 – 1430
Harrison Central Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1355	1345 – 1415
Lyman Elementary	0700 – 0745	0730 – 1415	1400 – 1430
Orange Grove Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 – 1415	1400 – 1430
River Oaks Elementary	0645 – 0730	0730 - 1415	1400 – 1430
North Gulfport 7 th & 8 th Grade	0715 – 0800	0800 – 1518	1515 – 1545
Harrison County Alternative	0715 – 0800	0800 – 1500	1500 – 1530

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