POULSBO POLICE
STREET BEAT

EDITION 1

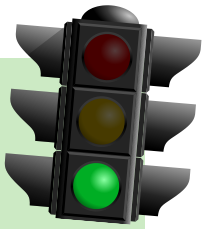
With school in session, it's important to know when you're legally required to stop for a school bus and when it's okay to keep going. Washington law (RCW 46.61.370) lays out the rules:

When You MUST Stop:

If a school bus has its red flashing lights on and stop sign extended, all traffic in both directions must stop on any road that is two lanes wide (one lane in each direction).

Drivers must remain stopped until the bus turns off its red lights and retracts the stop sign.

When You CAN Keep Going:



If you're driving on a road with three or more lanes (including a center turn lane) and you are on the opposite side of the road from the bus, you are NOT required to stop.

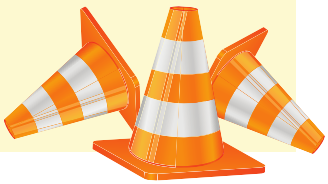
If the road has a median, raised divider, or physical barrier, vehicles traveling in the opposite direction do not have to stop.

Extra Safety Reminders:

Always watch for children crossing the road, even if you're not required to stop.

Yellow flashing lights mean the bus is preparing to stop, so slow down and be ready to stop if needed.

Failing to stop for a school bus can result in a hefty fine, and school bus cameras may be used to issue traffic tickets to violators.



Let's keep our roads safe for kids! If you have a general question about traffic laws or law enforcement procedures, email us at streetbeat@cityofpoulsbo.com.

Reminder: This email is not monitored 24/7. For emergencies, always call 9-1-1