

Winter 2006 Road Rules

In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code that may inform readers on the requirements of these sections and the penalties for violating these sections.

This issue deals with Section 3345, regarding meeting or overtaking a school bus.

The driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking a school bus with red signals flashing must stop at least ten feet before reaching the school bus. The driver shall not proceed until the flashing red signals are no longer activated. In no event shall a driver of a vehicle resume motion of the vehicle until the school children exiting the school bus have reached a place of safety from the roadway. The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection at which a school bus is stopped shall stop his/her vehicle at that intersection until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated.

Violators may be pulled over and ticketed. However, school bus drivers may report any violations to the local police department within 48 hours, and citations may be subsequently issued even if violators are not immediately pulled over.

Amber signals flash 150 to 300 before a school bus stops. Drivers may pass school buses while amber signals are flashing, but must be prepared to stop when the school bus stops.

Besides the use of amber and red signals for transporting school students, school buses may also activate these lights when transporting disabled persons. Drivers of vehicles approaching school buses carrying disabled persons have the same duties regarding stopping, passing, and overtaking as they do with respect to school buses carrying school children.

The driver of a vehicle upon a highway or trafficway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus with actuated red signal lights which is on a different roadway. In West Goshen Township, the only roadway meeting this criterion is the section of West Chester Pike containing a median.

Violators who fail to stop for a school bus with flashing red lights commit a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$250. In addition, five points will be deducted from the driver's license, and the driver will face a 60 day suspension of his/her license.