



# Middletown Public Schools

Patricia Charles, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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November 21, 2012

Dear Staff,

Middletown Public Schools (MPS) is pleased to announce a new program aimed at increasing safety measures for children riding, loading, and unloading school buses in our town. MPS has partnered with Redflex Student Guardian to install automated stop-arm violation detections and monitoring equipment on our buses. The primary goal of this program is to increase the safety for children by assisting law enforcement to issue tickets to motorists who illegally pass a stopped school bus thus putting children in danger.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, on average a school bus is illegally passed once every day. Since September, 2011 on average, four children have been injured or killed every month across the United States as a result of motorists illegally passing a stopped bus. To better protect children from this unsafe driving behavior, Student Guardian will be outfitting high-risk school bus routes with state-of-the-art, stop-arm monitoring equipment for use by law enforcement to issue citations to motorists illegally passing stopped school buses.

This program was enabled for municipalities and schools in Connecticut with the passage of Public Act 11-255 in July, 2011. Since then, 14 cities have implemented this program in Connecticut. This will increase the safety for the MPS students by alleviating reporting requirements from school bus drivers and allowing them to focus their attention on monitoring the children that are actively loading or unloading the bus.

Should you have any questions regarding the implementation of this program, we welcome you to contact our account administrator from Student Guardian, Dana Meinke. Dana can be reached at (860) 575-8665 and is happy to discuss any of your specific comments or concerns as we get this new initiative under way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patricia Charles'.

Patricia Charles, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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