

## According to Florida Law

### 316.172 Traffic to stop for school bus. –

(1)(a) Any person using, operating, or driving a vehicle on or over the roads or highways of this state shall, upon approaching any school bus which displays a stop signal, bring such vehicle to a full stop while the bus is stopped, and the vehicle shall not pass the school bus until the signal has been withdrawn. A person who violates this section commits a moving violation, punishable as provided in chapter 318.

(b) Any person using, operating, or driving a vehicle that passes a school bus on the side that children enter and exit when the school bus displays a stop signal commits a moving violation, punishable as provided in chapter 318, and is subject to a mandatory hearing under the provisions of s. [318.19](#).

(2) The driver of a vehicle upon a divided highway with an unpaved space of at least 5 feet, a raised median, or a physical barrier is not required to stop when traveling in the opposite direction of a school bus which is stopped in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(3) Every school bus shall stop as far to the right of the street as possible and shall display warning lights and stop signals as required by rules of the State Board of Education before discharging or loading passengers. When possible, a school bus shall not stop where the visibility is obscured for a distance of 200 feet either way from the bus.

## Penalties

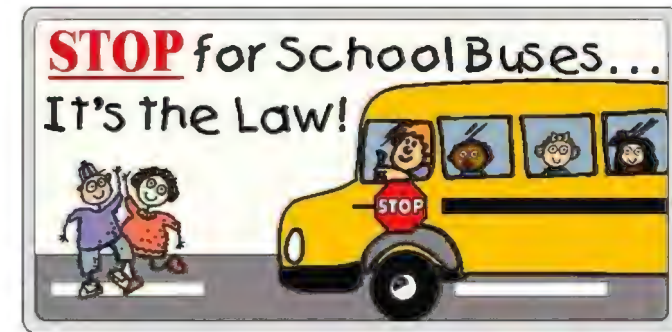
### 318.18 Amount of penalties. –

(5)(a) One hundred dollars for a violation of s. [316.172](#) (1)(a), failure to stop for a school bus. If, at a hearing, the alleged offender is found to have committed this offense, the court shall impose a minimum civil penalty of \$100. In addition to this penalty, for a second or subsequent offense within a period of 5 years, the department shall suspend the driver license of the person for not less than 90 days and not more than 6 months.

(b) Two hundred dollars for a violation of s. [316.172](#)(1)(b), passing a school bus on the side that children enter and exit when the school bus displays a stop signal. If, at a hearing, the alleged offender is found to have committed this offense, the court shall impose a minimum civil penalty of \$200. In addition to this penalty, for a second or subsequent offense within a period of 5 years, the department shall suspend the driver license of the person for not less than 180 days and not more than 1 year.

(c) In addition to the penalty under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), \$65 for a violation of s. [316.172](#)(1)(a) or (b). If the alleged offender is found to have committed the offense, the court shall impose the civil penalty under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) plus an additional \$65. The additional \$65 collected under this paragraph shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund of the Department of Health to be used as provided in s. [395.4036](#).

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, \$1,500 for a violation of s. [316.172](#)(1)(a) or (b) that causes or results in serious bodily injury to or death of another. The person may enter into a payment plan with the clerk of court pursuant to s. [28.246](#). In addition to this penalty, the department shall suspend the driver license of the person for not less than 1 year.



Do  
You  
Know  
The LAW?



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
fldoe.org

A SAFER  
**FLORIDA**  
HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

When a motorist meets or is behind a school bus, be aware of the flashing lights.

If you see the YELLOW light begin to flash, this is a warning to motorists that *the bus is about to stop* and load or unload children.

When the RED lights begin to flash, this indicates that *the bus has stopped* and is in the loading/unloading process.

All traffic should STOP when on two-lane roads.

Be aware of children who are standing near the roadway or crossing the street.

On roads where there are multiple lanes of traffic, all lanes of traffic should STOP for school buses when the bus is stopped and the RED lights are flashing.

