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Press Release

With Talbot County schools being back in session, the Talbot County Sheriff's Office is asking that those traveling the roads with our school buses know the importance of school bus safety laws. Many times the Talbot County Sheriff's Office receives complaints about motorists who fail to stop for school buses operating red flashing lights. This will result in aggressive enforcement by our Deputies and motorist will be cited "no exceptions". When a motorist is cited, it will cost them \$570.00 and a three point penalty on their driver's license.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 2009 to 2018, there were 249 school-age children killed nationally in school transportation-related crashes: 52 were occupants of school transportation vehicles, 92 were occupants of other vehicles, 100 were pedestrians, four were pedal cyclists and one was another non-occupant. Also, more school-age pedestrians were killed from 6 to 8 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. than any other hour of the day, according to the NHTSA.

To stay on top of your school bus safety game, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) encourages Marylanders to:

- Always pay attention when driving, especially in school zones and during school bus stops;
- Always stop when a bus stops; it is illegal to pass a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended when it has stopped to load or unload students;
- Always ensure that any mask or face shield that you wear out in public does not prevent you from maintaining a clear line of sight when operating a motor vehicle or walking near moving vehicles; and
- Always remember that children's brains are still developing – don't expect them to behave as you would when entering, exiting, or in a school bus; therefore, maintain a safe distance from school buses at all times.