That’s the theme for this year’s National School Bus Safety Week, which runs October 19–23. The most serious incidents involving school buses happen outside the bus, not inside.

Because of COVID-19, many people have new or constantly changing schedules. Paying attention to school buses isn’t their first concern. But it’s still important because many buses are up and running. Take a moment to learn more about what’s behind school bus incidents, especially in these challenging times.

Thousands of stop-arm violations daily

In 2019, a one-day nationwide safety survey from The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) reported that school bus drivers from 39 states reported 95,494 instances of vehicles passing their buses illegally.

Stop-arm violations put millions at risk

More than 27% of the nation’s school bus drivers (130,963) counted a total of 95,319 stop-arm violators in a single day. There could be more than 17 million stop-arm violations committed throughout a 180-day school year.

Injuries and fatalities see highest numbers since 2009

In the 2018-2019 school year, there were 70 injuries relating to school bus crossings and 17 fatalities.

Safety practices affect everyone on the road. 36% of people injured in school bus-related crashes from 2008 to 2018 were school bus passengers, 8% were school bus drivers, and 51% were occupants of other vehicles.

Bus safety during COVID-19

60% of students have returned to classrooms under either a hybrid or 100%, in-person education models. Hybrid bus schedules cause more chaos. Stay alert and informed.

For more information on Zonar and BusPatrol’s commitment to reduce stop-arm violations and improve school bus safety, visit zonarsystems.com/buspatrol.

To learn more about how Zonar can help your school district be safer, contact us at info@zonarsystems.com.