



# CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *Public Service Announcement*

530-897-4942

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### **School bus safety and the law**

#### **NARRATIVE:**

There is a law that has been on the books for a while, but it still causes some confusion with vehicle drivers. The law has to do with stopping for school busses with flashing red lights.

When a school bus approaches a designated drop off point, the bus will activate its amber (yellow) warning lights. As the bus comes to a stop, it will activate its red signal lights. If the bus is equipped with a stop signal arm, it will be displayed until the loading and unloading is complete. Note: Not all school busses are equipped with the stop signal arms.

As a motorist, the flashing amber lights should be treated as a traffic control signal. You should begin to apply your brakes in preparation to stop. Do not accelerate in an attempt to 'beat' the imminent red lights.

The confusion happens when motorists do not understand which lanes are required to come to a complete stop while the bus displays red flashing lights.

The law is clear if you follow a few guidelines:

You must always stop when overtaking a school bus from the same direction with red lights flashing regardless of the type of roadway you are driving on.

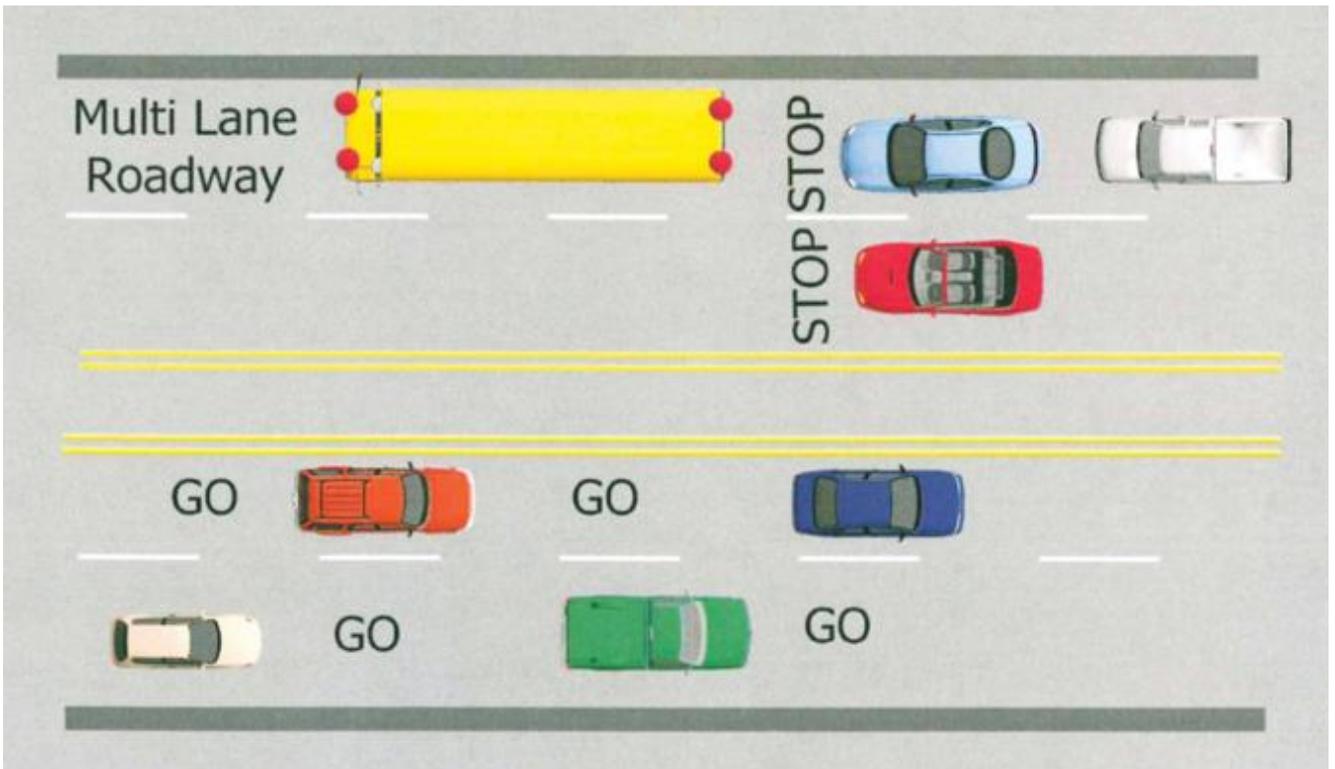
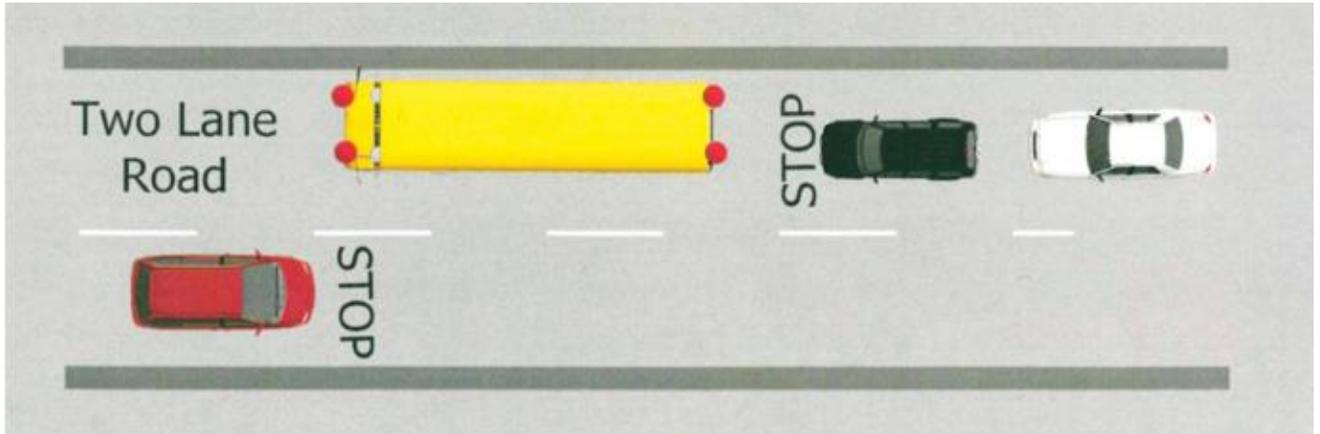
When meeting or passing a school bus from the opposite direction driving on a multi-lane or divided highway you must stop going in the same direction when you observe flashing red lights, but do not have to stop when going the opposite direction.

The fines are steep for violating the law due to the very dangerous nature of passing school busses loading and unloading children. Please use caution when approaching school busses and always fully stop when necessary.

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Diagrams created by Murrieta Motor Officer Jennifer Metoyer