FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Centreville, Maryland

Queen Anne’s County Law Enforcement and QACPS work together to stop illegal School Bus Passing

It might be hard to believe but there are far too many car drivers who simply ignore the flashing red lights and extended stop sign and pass the big yellow school buses, which have stopped as students are boarding or exiting the bus, putting the children in danger. In fact this happened more than 3,000 times in Maryland in 2017. And it is illegal.

Queen Anne’s County law enforcement, the Maryland State Police plus the QACPS Board of Education have joined forces once again to end this dangerous activity.

Queen Anne’s County Sheriff Department Deputies in addition to Maryland State Police officers are constantly on patrol looking for these lawbreakers. When caught passing a school bus illegally the driver faces a $750 fine and three points on their license. School bus drivers will make note of endangering our students.

“The safety of our students is our top priority and we are proud to partner with the Queen Anne's Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police to raise awareness of individuals being required by law to stop when a school bus has its red lights activated and stop arm extended,” said Sidney Pinder, Chief Operating Officer of Queen Anne’s County Public Schools.

The public can help by reporting this dangerous activity as well. “We encourage our community members to report these incidents to your local law enforcement agency. If you observe an individual passing a stopped school bus and are able to obtain their tag number, please forward it to our office. We take the safety of our children very seriously and encourage others to do the same,” said Queen Anne’s County Sherriff Gary Hofmann.

As a community we can take a stand to stop this highly reckless activity that threatens our children.
Pictured, from left to right are:
• Deputy First Class George Parker
• Lieutenant Robert Connolly
• QAC Sheriff Gary Hofmann
• Raymond Aaron - Bus Contractor
• Lawrence Chanaud - Bus Contractor
• Laura Bostic - Bus Contractor
• Evelyn Gardner - Bus Contractor
• Dr. Andrea Kane – QACPS Superintendent
• Sidney Pinder - QACPS Chief Operating Officer
• Margaret Ellen Kalmanowicz – QACPS Supervisor of Transportation

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About Queen Anne’s County Public Schools

Queen Anne’s County Public Schools’ (QACPS) is a high-performing, a small rural school system on Maryland’s Eastern Shore with 14 schools and more than 1,000 employees, supporting the success of 7,800 children in prekindergarten-to-grade 12. Its vision, mission, and core values are based upon a commitment to ensure all children receive a rigorous academic program in a safe, respectful, and caring learning environment. QACPS recognizes and values the importance of close partnerships among school staff, parents, community members, and business partners in preparing all students to meet or exceed standards and graduate high school on time, and college-, career-, and civic-ready to be globally competitive. Further information on QACPS is available at www.qacps.org, or call 410-758-2403.