Four lanes with median: Cars travelling in the same direction as school bus must stop. Cars travelling in the opposite direction may continue driving.

Superintendent Tom Seigel spoke at the press conference regarding the new cameras and the importance of student safety in the district. “The intent is to ensure our kids get on and off buses safely,” he said.

The following is quoted directly from the Washington State Department of Licensing Drivers’ Guide (page 3-23):

“You must stop for a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing whether it is on your side of the road, the opposite side of the road or at an intersection you are approaching.

You are not required to stop for a school bus with red lights flashing when the stopped school bus is travelling in the opposite direction and the roadway:
• has three or more marked traffic lanes,
• is separated by a median, or
• is separated by a physical barrier.

After the school bus red lights have stopped flashing, watch for children along the side of the road and do not proceed until they have completely left the roadway.

• You must yield to any transit vehicle (bus) that has signaled and is pulling back onto the roadway.

The fine for illegally passing a school bus is $394.”

In an interview with King 5 News, Washington State Patrol Trooper Guy Gill said the best practice is to stop if you are not sure of the rules. “You can’t go wrong erring (sic) on the side of caution,” said Gill.

You can read the full King 5 news story at www.king5.com/story/news/traffic/2014/11/06/rules-stopping-for-school-bus/18603209/.