

**School District
Policy Regarding the Idling of
School Buses and Other Vehicles
on School Property**

Be it resolved that the Board of Education, recognizing the importance of the safety and health of the district's students and staff, does hereby adopt the following policy regarding the idling of school buses.

Background and Intent

The negative health impacts of exposure to diesel exhaust are well documented. Children are particularly vulnerable. The purpose of the policy is to reduce student, driver and staff exposure to harmful emissions found in diesel exhaust by eliminating the unnecessary idling of school buses on school property.

Application

This policy shall apply to all school buses operated by or for the district for the purpose of transporting the district's students to or from school or school related activities, whether the buses are owned by the district or contracted from vendors.

Implementation

1. The driver of a diesel school bus must turn off his engine upon arrival at a school. The engine must remain off until the bus is loaded (or unloaded) and is ready to depart from school property.
2. If more than one bus is involved in the boarding process, all buses must be loaded and doors closed before engines are started.
3. The district shall communicate this policy to all parents, as well as vendors and district employees involved with transportation. Appropriate signage shall be posted at each school to remind drivers and school staff of the policy. The provisions of this policy shall be incorporated by reference in all transportation contracts and agreements.
4. The employer of the school bus driver must ensure that the driver, upon employment, is informed of the district's policy, and that all complaints of non-compliance are reviewed and appropriate action is taken.
5. The district shall endeavor to locate school building air intake systems not less than 100 feet from any school bus loading or unloading area, or to take

appropriate measures to shut off such intake systems during periods when buses are present.

Exemptions:

The provisions of this policy shall be suspended under the following conditions:

1. If the outside temperature at the school is less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, buses shall be permitted to idle for up to five minutes, or as much time as local regulations permit, whichever is shorter
2. When bus engines are required to operate special equipment for disabled students.
3. When the use of defrosters, heaters or other equipment is required for safety or health considerations, as determined by the district's Director of Transportation.
4. When use of the bus headlights or four-way flasher warning lights is required for visibility purposes; or for other traffic, safety, or emergency situations.

Additional Applications

This no-idling policy shall also apply to all cars and any other vehicles operating on school properties during school hours (except when engines are required for operation of equipment.) The District shall inform all vendors of the policy, and the policy should be referenced in all new contracts and service agreements.

This document is part of **The ChildSafe School Program** created by Grassroots Environmental Education, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

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