

Vehicle Idling

The Board of Education recognizes that emissions that accumulate from school buses and other vehicles on school property can be harmful to students, staff and the environment. The Board further recognizes that unnecessary idling by school buses and other District vehicles wastes fuel and financial resources. Idling is defined as the operation of the engine of a vehicle while the vehicle is not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the basic operation of the vehicle.

The Board, therefore, prohibits unnecessary idling by school buses and other District owned, contracted for or leased vehicles on school property and at school activities. The Board also discourages visitors from unnecessary idling of vehicles on school property and at school activities.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop procedures consistent with this policy and shall ensure that school bus drivers and other appropriate school personnel receive training to implement this policy. The Superintendent shall also ensure that parents are notified annually of this policy.

“No idling” signs will be posted to alert bus drivers, other employees and parents to turn off vehicles when waiting to drop off or pick up students or when parked.

Vehicle Idling - Regulation

School Buses

1. When school bus drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions. The school bus should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.
2. At school bus depots, the idling time to warm up the school buses in the early morning shall be for the time recommended by the manufacturer (generally three to five minutes) except in the coldest weather.
3. To the extent possible in order to maintain interior vehicle warmth, during cold weather months, school buses should be driven to the school as close to the scheduled pick-up time as possible, then turned off while waiting for students to load. Bus idling to maintain interior warmth shall be at a very minimum and shall occur outside of the school zone. The schools shall provide a space inside the school building where bus drivers can arrive early and wait.
4. The following are considered exceptions to the above rules and extraordinary circumstances that implicate health and safety and are beyond the bus driver's control:
 - a. waiting in traffic
 - b. while loading/unloading students with special needs, if necessary (e.g., wheelchair lifts whose operation requires the engine to be running)
 - c. for traffic, safety or emergency situations
 - d. for maintenance or mechanical inspections or repair
 - e. during extreme weather conditions for the purpose of warming the interior of the bus.
5. School buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported to locations off of school grounds.
6. Transportation Operations shall revise bus schedules so that school bus caravanning can be avoided and the cleanest buses assigned to the longest routes.
7. All bus drivers shall receive a copy of this Policy and Regulation at the beginning of every school year.

Other Vehicles

1. All service delivery vehicles shall turn off the engines while making deliveries to school buildings and shall not park in areas where there are intake vents to the school buildings.
2. Parents/guardians who drop off or pick up their children at school should do so quickly and at the area designated for drop off or pick up. Parents should turn off the vehicle engine while waiting to drop off or pick up a student, or when parked.
3. This Policy and Regulation shall be posted on the District's website.