

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

School Bus Idling Policy



NO IDLING ZONES (Loading & Unloading Zones)

I. Mornings

Drivers should turn off engine as soon as possible.

- ✓ As needed, lift drivers may idle when loading-unloading wheelchair.
- ✓ As needed, special needs' drivers may idle for heat for medically fragile students.

II Afternoons

A. Drivers should turn off engine as soon as possible; keep radio on for communication.

If a driver's second load, check for students and belongings upon arrival.

B. If school is designed for angle parking, utilize this to place exhaust further from students and school.

C. As permitted by the school, in cold weather drivers may enter school to stay warm; always respect the school environment. Drivers may also congregate on one bus (for health & safety), and keep only one engine running while waiting. If drivers gather on one bus, the bus should be well away from the school or building air intakes.

D. Drivers must be on his-her bus before school dismisses.

E. Driver should not start engine until driver is ready and it is clear to depart.

III. Field & Athletic Trips

Drivers should not idle while waiting during field or athletic trips.

Exceptions – Extreme Temperatures

- ✓ To warm the bus, driver may idle.
- ✓ For driver-student health & safety, driver may idle.
- ✓ As much as possible, minimize idling.
- ✓ When possible, move bus well away from school or building.
- ✓ For security reasons, driver must remain with bus.

IV Pre-Trip Inspections

Drivers should keep idling to a minimum.

- ✓ For inspecting bus and equipment on bus, limit the time required (routinely, 8-10 minutes).
- ✓ Drivers should not routinely start then leave the bus running unnecessarily.

V. Idling Exceptions

- ✓ As needed, lift drivers may idle when loading-unloading wheelchair.
- ✓ As needed, special needs' drivers may idle for heat for medically fragile students.
- ✓ When temperature is 20°F or below, extended idling may be required for fleet start-up.
- ✓ In freezing temperatures, idling may be necessary to de-ice the windshield or thaw brake lines.
- ✓ When temperature is 32°F or below, idling may be required to heat bus.
- ✓ When idling is necessary to heat the inside of bus to a safe temperature, idling should take place outside the school zone (when possible). In this case, enter the school zone just prior to dismissal and turn off engine.

A school bus driver's effort to eliminate unnecessary idling can greatly impact a healthier, cleaner, and safer environment for drivers and students.

Always remember: as much as possible, eliminate unnecessary idling!