



SAMPLE

Idle Reduction Policy for School/District Fleet Vehicles

Background

The exhaust from idling vehicles and school buses poses an unnecessary health risk for children, drivers, and the community at large. In addition to these health risks, idling wastes fuel and impairs air quality.

Statement of Purpose

This policy is intended to protect the health of students, drivers, the public, and the environment from exposure to vehicle exhaust; reduce wear on vehicle engines; decrease fuel consumption; and minimize operational costs.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy, a “fleet” is defined as all vehicles:

- Owned, rented, or leased by {School/District Name}; and
- Operated for the purpose of conducting business on behalf of {School/District Name}.

Statement of Policy

Drivers of {School/District Name} fleet vehicles must turn off vehicle engines (i.e., not idle) when a vehicle will be stopped for more than 10 seconds, except when in traffic. This policy applies, but is not limited, to the following situations:

- When loading or unloading people or goods
- When stopped and waiting for any reason (except in traffic).

School bus drivers must:

1. Turn off the bus as soon as possible after arriving at the school to drop off or pick up students. The engine must remain off until the bus is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the loading zone.
2. Minimize idling in colder weather, when the temperature of the bus is an issue. The bus should be warmed outside the school zone. The “warmed bus” must enter the school zone as close to pick-up time as possible to maintain warmth and then shut down. {The School(s)} shall to provide a space inside the school where early bus drivers can wait.
3. Not allow the bus to idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.

Exemptions

The policy of turning off vehicles when stopped does not apply for the period or periods during which idling is necessary under the following circumstances:

1. To provide for the safety of vehicle occupants, such as in cases of extreme hot or cold conditions (e.g., to run the air conditioner or heater under extreme heat or cold).
2. When the heater or air conditioner is required during the unloading, loading, or transport of children with exceptional or special needs.
3. For pressure build-up when starting a diesel engine
4. For cool-down when shutting down a diesel engine.
5. To operate power take-off equipment or auxiliary equipment performing work.

6. When using lift equipment during loading or unloading of children with special needs.
7. When stopped in traffic, such as when waiting at a traffic light.
8. When specific traffic, safety, or emergency situations arise.

In any of the above exemption cases (except exemption 7), if equipment can be run from the battery, drivers should refrain from idling unless there is a significant concern of draining the battery.

Implementation

This policy shall be effective immediately from the date of signature.

Signature

Date