



POLICY:

REGULATION: **EEAH - School Bus Idling Regulation**

EXHIBIT:

Applicability: This regulation applies to the operation of every district-owned and/or contracted school bus.

Rationale: Diesel exhaust from idling school buses can accumulate in and around the bus and pose a health risk, both to children and drivers. Exposure to diesel exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems. Diesel exhaust also aggravates asthma and existing allergies, and long term exposure is thought to increase the risk of lung cancer. Idling buses also waste fuel and financial resources.

Purpose: Eliminate all unnecessary idling by school buses such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus operation.

Guidance: 1) When school bus drivers arrive at loading and 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. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as:

- a) Extreme weather conditions
- b) Idling in traffic

2) At driver residences, limit the idling time during early morning warm up to what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally 3-5 minutes) in all but the coldest weather.

3) Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities and other events where students are transported off school grounds.

4) In colder weather, if the warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a very minimum and occur outside the school zone. The “warmed” bus is to enter the loading area at least 5 minutes before dismissal time and then be shut down. Turn the ignition to the accessory position for radio communications. When students start to arrive the unit should be started and throttled up while they are loading.

5) Transportation Department staff has revised the bus schedules so that school buses on longer routes leave first.

6) All service delivery vehicles shall turn off their engines while making deliveries to school buildings.

7) All staff of Division schools and facilities are encouraged to assist in reducing and preventing idling adjacent to and on division locations.

8) The public is encouraged to reduce and avoid idling on and adjacent to school facilities.