

VEHICLE IDLING

Exhaust from idling vehicles can accumulate in and around the vehicle and pose a health risk to children, drivers and the community at large. Exposure to vehicle exhaust can contribute to a wide range of health and environmental problems including triggering asthma attacks, carbon monoxide poisoning, eye and respiratory irritation, contributing to ozone generation, and air pollution.

The purpose of this policy is to eliminate all unnecessary idling on school grounds by every corporation-owned school bus as well as public and private vehicles to reduce vehicle exhaust that has the potential to accumulate around students and be drawn into the building. The school corporation shall post signs in areas where idling is prohibited.

Public and Private Vehicles Idling Time

1. Drivers of all public and private vehicles are to turn off the engine if the vehicle is to be stopped more than 5 minutes in locations where vehicle exhaust may accumulate around students and/or be drawn into the building.

Corporation Vehicle Idling Time

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. School buses will not idle (on school grounds or off school grounds) for longer than five (5) minutes unless:
 - A. There are extreme weather conditions (meaning 32 degrees Fahrenheit or less) and the purpose is to warm the interior of the bus,
 - B. Longer idling time is necessary to facilitate the loading and unloading of students of special needs,
 - C. There are safety or emergency situations,
 - D. There are maintenance or mechanical inspection/repair issues requiring a longer time to facilitate the inspection/repair process, or
 - E. The bus is idling in traffic.
3. Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities, or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
4. In colder weather, schools are directed to provide a space inside the school where bus drivers who arrive early can wait.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 410 IAC 33-4-3