

SCHOOL BUS AND VEHICLE IDLING

I. Generally

To maintain a healthy school environment for students, staff, and the public, ACPS-owned school buses and vehicles will refrain from unnecessary idling.

ACPS recognizes that sometimes there may be a necessary purpose for idling buses in and around school buildings. A “necessary purpose” may include pre-trip safety inspections, running heat/defrosters, operating school bus lights, radios, or other accessories (unless they can operate without running the engine), or for engine cool-down after full-load operation.

II. Idling Guidelines – School Buses

ACPS’ “anti-idling” policy requires bus drivers to take the following steps:

A. Pre-trip Guidelines

- School bus drivers limit idling time during early morning warm-up to the extent necessary for conducting a pre-trip inspection and to ensure the safe operation of the vehicle.

B. Warm weather

- School bus drivers shut off bus engines upon reaching the destination and buses do not idle while waiting for passengers.
- This rule applies to all bus use, including daily route travel, field trips, and transportation to and from athletic events.
- When dropping off passengers at schools, if the bus is departing immediately after unloading, the bus may idle its engine, not to exceed three minutes.
- School buses are not restarted until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.

C. Cold weather

- School bus drivers shut off bus engines upon reaching the destination and buses do not idle while waiting for passengers.
- Certain conditions during a wait time (i.e., ice, snow, extreme cold), may warrant buses being restarted, but buses do not idle for more than three minutes.
- During extreme conditions (outside temperature is <32 degrees F), buses do not idle for more than 10 minutes, in accordance with the City of Alexandria Noise Ordinance and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Regulations.

III. Idling Guidelines – Other ACPS-Owned Vehicles

ACPS’ “anti-idling” policy requires drivers of assigned ACPS fleet vehicles to refrain from idling near school entrances in order to maintain a healthy school environment.

When vehicles are parked or waiting near school buildings, engines should be shut off and drivers should refrain from idling.

- Regardless of weather conditions and the location of the vehicle, ACPS-owned vehicles do not idle for more than three minutes.
- For diesel-powered trucks during extreme conditions (outside temperature is <32 degrees F), idling time does not exceed 10 minutes, in accordance with the City of Alexandria Noise Ordinance and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Regulations.

IV. Notice of Policy

All ACPS personnel approved to operate a motor vehicle, including the operation of school buses, will receive annual notification of this policy and its provisions.

Adopted: November 4, 2021

Legal Refs.: 42 U.S.C. § 11301 *et seq.*
42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12134.
Public Law 93-113 § 504.

Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-176, 22.1-221, 22.1-254.

Cross Refs.:	EEA	Student Transportation Services
	EEAB	School Bus Scheduling and Routing
	EEA-R/EEAB-R	Student Transportation Services Regulations
	EEAC	School Bus Safety Program
	EEAD	Special Use of School Buses
	EEBA	ACPS-Owned Vehicles
	EEBA-R	Use of ACPS-Owned Vehicles Regulations
	GDQ	School Bus Drivers
	IICA	Field Trips
	IICA-R	Field Trip Procedures