

<h1>POLICY</h1>	2022	5702
	<b>Business Operations</b>	

**Subject: School Bus Idling**

The Board of Education recognizes the need to promote the health and safety of District students and staff and to protect the environment from harmful emissions found in bus exhaust, in particular diesel exhaust, by eliminating the unnecessary idling of all school buses on school property including all schools within the District or at any school or school related activities to which District students are transported. For purposes of this policy, an "idling school bus" shall mean a school bus that is parked or stopped at a school or other location and has its engine running. *This policy applies to the operation of every District-owned and/or contracted school bus.* The District shall strive to eliminate all unnecessary idling of school buses such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus operation.

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), excessive idling of certain vehicles is illegal in New York State. State regulations provide in part that buses exceeding 8,500 pounds and designed primarily for transporting persons or properties (i.e., a "heavy duty vehicle") shall not idle for more than five (5) consecutive minutes when not in motion unless otherwise authorized by the regulations. The state regulations apply to a heavy duty vehicle whether or not powered by a diesel or non-diesel fueled engine.

Further, the five (5) consecutive minute limitation on idling applies to buses whether owned, operated or leased; or to one who owns, leases or occupies land and has the actual or apparent dominion or control over the operation of the bus present on such land.

**Exceptions**

Exceptions to the five (5) consecutive minute limitation on idling of school buses will be as enumerated in state regulations and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) The bus is forced to remain motionless because of the traffic conditions over which the driver has no control.
- b) Idling to maintain an interior temperature of fifty (50) degrees Fahrenheit when the outside temperature is less than fifty (50) degrees or an interior temperature of seventy (70) degrees Fahrenheit when the temperature outside is more than eighty (80) degrees.
- c) Auxiliary function such as wheelchair lifts IF the operation requires the engine to continue running.

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**Subject: School Bus Idling (Continued)**

**Publication of District Policy/Bus Driver Training**

This policy shall be posted at the Transportation Department, Bus Garage and all district vehicles covered under this policy; and the Director of Transportation shall provide training to District bus drivers/transportation personnel on the District’s idling reduction program and other practices for environmentally friendly bus operations to reduce school bus emissions and minimize exposure to bus exhaust. Appropriate signage shall be posted at each school to remind drivers and school staff of the policy.

**Sanctions for Violation of District Policy**

District employed bus drivers as well as other District employees who are known to have engaged in prohibited behavior with regard to excessive idling of school busses are subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the applicable collective bargaining agreement, as well as the sanctions provided for in law and/or regulations.

The District will monitor and enforce compliance with this policy; and any person may report incidents of noncompliance by contacting the Director of Transportation.

6 New York Code of Rules and Regulations  
(NYCRR) Subpart 217-3

Approved: Board of Education  
December 22, 2004

Approved: Board of Education  
June 13, 2007

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January 28, 2015

Approved: Board of Education  
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