

## **Idling vehicle policy**

It has been documented that idling vehicle 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.

Researchers have also proven that not only is it not necessary for vehicles to idle, but periods of long idling cause more wear and tear to the engine and waste fuel. School corporations that have adopted idling programs have realized savings in fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.

Indiana Rule 410 IAC 33-4-3 requires schools to adopt and enforce a policy limiting vehicle idling on school campuses.

Consideration should be given to locations of the building air intakes when evaluating such policy to minimize exhaust fumes being drawn into the building.

**A: Purpose-** This policy is to limit vehicle emissions that might be brought into school buildings as mandated by 410 IAC 33-4-3. This will improve the health of students and staff through reduced exposure to these emissions.

**B. Applicability-** This policy applies to all public and private vehicles on the school campus.

### **C. Idling**

#### **1. Posting**

a) The school shall post signs in areas where idling is prohibited.

#### **2. Requirements**

b) Drivers of vehicles are to turn off the engine if the vehicle is to be stopped more than 5 minutes. (Engine cool down periods recommended by vehicle manufacturer may be followed.

c) The employer of the bus driver shall inform the bus driver of these requirements.

d) Teachers and school staff shall be informed of this policy at the start of each school year.

e) During student/parent orientations, parents and all students shall be informed of this policy.

f) Any complaints of non-compliance will be reviewed, and action taken as necessary.

## **D: Exemptions**

### **1. Safety of Children or Emergencies**

- a) Use of lift equipment during loading or unloading of individuals with special needs.
- b) Use of heater or air conditioning during loading or unloading individuals with special needs.
- c) Use of defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or any other equipment for the health or safety concerns.
- d) Use of bus headlights, or flasher warning lights for safety or visibility purposes.
- e) For other safety or emergency issues.

### **2. Hot or Cold Weather**

- a) If bus drivers are at a location more than 15 minutes, a waiting area should be provided for their use after turning off the bus engine.
- b) Buses may idle for a minimal period to cool down if equipped with air conditioning prior to loading or while students remain on the bus.
- c) If necessary due to cold temperatures, a vehicle may idle for a minimal time to warm the vehicle.

### **3. Maintenance Operations**

- a) (When possible, maintenance operations should not be conducted within 100 feet of a school building housing classrooms.) Buses may idle as necessary as part of a pre-trip safety inspection.
- b) If necessary to make emergency repairs to vehicles. (for example, jump starting another vehicle.