

IDLING SCHOOL BUSES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

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 and vehicle exhaust. In accordance with Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations, the District will minimize, to the extent practicable, the idling of all school buses, other vehicles owned or leased by the District, and/or other service delivery vehicles while such bus or vehicle is parked or standing on school grounds or in the front of any school. This policy also applies to contractor owned and operated school buses under contract with the District.

The District shall develop a procedure to ensure that each driver of a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or contracted for by the District turn off the engine of the bus or vehicle while waiting for passengers to load or off load on school grounds, or while such vehicle is parked or standing on school grounds or in front of or adjacent to any school.

Exceptions

Unless otherwise required by State or local law, the idling of a school bus or vehicle engine may be permitted to the extent necessary to achieve the following purposes:

- a) For mechanical work; or
- b) To maintain an appropriate temperature for passenger comfort; or
- c) In emergency evacuations where necessary to operate wheelchair lifts.

Guidance

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. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as:

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

2. At school bus depots, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up to what is recommended by the manufacturer in all but the coldest weather.

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, if the warmth of the bus is an issue:

- a) Drivers should arrive at schools as close as possible to schedule pick-up times. Drivers who arrive early to schools should shut down their bus and wait inside the building.

- b) If idling time is expected to go beyond that of the five (5) consecutive minute's guideline it should occur outside the school zone. The "warmed" bus can reenter the school zone as close to pick-up time as possible to maintain warmth and then shut down.
5. Quality vehicle preventative maintenance and inspection programs shall be implemented and monitored so that engines are maintained in proper operating condition regardless of the age of the bus.
6. All service delivery vehicles shall turn off the engines while making deliveries to Hudson City School District owned and/or operated buildings.
7. "NO IDLING" signs will be posted in all loading and unloading areas.
8. All drivers shall receive a copy of this policy at the beginning of every school year.

Private Vendor Transportation Contracts

All contracts for pupil transportation services between the School District and a private vendor that are entered into on or after August 21, 2008, shall include a provision requiring such vendor's compliance with the provisions of reducing idling in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations Section 156.3(h).

Education Law Section 3637
Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 142
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 156.3(h)

Adoption date: February 24, 2009