

Idling School Buses and Other Idling Vehicles on School Property

The Board seeks to limit vehicle emissions that might be brought into school corporation buildings to reduce exposure to these emissions and to improve indoor air quality for students, staff, and visitors.

Exhaust from idling vehicles can accumulate in and around schools and pose a health risk to children, drivers, and the community at large. Exposure to vehicle exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems. Vehicle exhaust also exacerbates asthma and existing allergies, and long-term exposure may increase the risk of lung cancer. Idling vehicles waste fuel and financial resources of the school corporation.

This policy applies to all public and private vehicles on any school property and to all school corporation-owned vehicles while on school property and/or transporting students at any time.

The school shall post signs on school grounds where idling is prohibited.

Public and Private Vehicles Idling Time

Drivers of vehicles are to turn off the engine if the vehicle is to be stopped for more than five (5) minutes.

Corporation Vehicle Idling Time

Drivers of corporation-owned vehicles should turn off their vehicles as soon as possible to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions. The vehicle should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the area. Vehicles will not idle (on school grounds or off school grounds when students are present) for longer than five (5) minutes.

Exceptions to this policy include, but are not limited to:

A. Safety of Student or Emergencies

1. Longer idling time is necessary to facilitate the loading and unloading of students with special needs.
2. Use of defroster, heater, air conditioning, or other equipment during loading or unloading for health or safety concerns is necessary.
3. Use of bus headlights or flasher warning lights for safety or visibility purposes is necessary.
4. Idling is necessary due to waiting in traffic.
5. Other safety or emergency issues necessitate longer idling.

B. Inclement Weather

1. When extreme cold weather conditions (30 degrees Fahrenheit or less) necessitate longer idling for the purpose of keeping the students warm. Engine warm-up idle time should be done away from the school grounds.
2. When extreme hot weather conditions require longer idle times to keep the students cool while in the bus.

C. Maintenance Operations

1. Where maintenance or mechanical inspection/repair issues require longer idle time to facilitate the inspection/ repair process.