

BUS IDLING

The contribution of engine exhaust emissions to the air quality and associated health impact of people, particularly children in the Old Tappan Public Schools is an issue that the Old Tappan Board of Education recognizes and wishes to positively impact. Therefore the Board of Education adopts this "NO IDLE" Policy which will be enforced on all school properties and on school owned or contracted vehicles. This policy seeks to reduce student and driver exposure to diesel and automotive exhaust by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses. All aspects of this policy will conform to requirements found in NJ Statute 7:27-14.2.

This policy applies to District-owned school buses and contracted school buses while being operated for the purpose of transporting the school District's students at public expense.

- A. When school bus or other drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should be at idle for no more than three minutes or turn off their buses/vehicles as soon as possible to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions. The school bus/vehicle 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:
- Extreme weather conditions
 - Idling in traffic
 - Use of lift equipment during loading or unloading of children with one or more disabilities;
 - Use of a heater or an air conditioner of a bus during loading, unloading or transport of children with exceptional needs;
 - Use of defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment for safety or health considerations;
 - In any of the above cases, if equipment can be run from the battery then the drivers should refrain from idling, unless there is a significant concern of draining the battery.
- B. At school bus parking areas, the idling time during early morning warm-up is limited to what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally 3-5 minutes) in all but the coldest weather.
- C. Buses should not idle for more than the state allows while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
- D. No bus should be allowed to idle without the driver being in close proximity to the bus.
- E. In colder weather, if the warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a very minimum and occur outside the school zone. The "warmed" bus is to enter the school zone as close to pick-up time as possible to maintain warmth and then shut down if idling time exceeds state recommendations.

All service delivery vehicles shall turn off the engines while making deliveries to school buildings.

All drivers shall receive a copy of this bulletin at the beginning of every school year.

BUS IDLING (continued)

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 7:27-14.2
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General and mandatory duties of the Board

Cross References: *3541.1 Transportation routes and services
 *3541.33 Transportation Safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Bus Idling, No Idle, School Bus, Private Vehicle Idling,

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