Reduce School Bus Idling

Good for Drivers, Good for Students,
Good for the Environment!

Diesel Exhaust and School Bus Idling

Diesel exhaust from idling school buses poses a health risk to both drivers and students. As idling buses wait for students at the schools, they emit exhaust fumes which concentrate at ground level and which can enter both the passenger compartments of the buses and school classrooms through ventilation systems. Numerous scientific studies indicate that exposure to diesel exhaust can cause lung damage, respiratory problems, premature death, and lung cancer. Although everyone can be affected by diesel exhaust, children are more susceptible to these health problems because their respiratory systems are not fully developed.

Benefits of Reducing School Bus Idling

- ✓ Helps protect the health of drivers and students from the harmful effects of diesel exhaust fumes.
- ✓ Reduces air pollutants that contribute to ozone smog, fine airborne particle formation, and global warming.
- ✓ Reduces fuel consumption and saves money. A typical diesel vehicle burns approximately one gallon of fuel for each hour it idles. If each bus reduces its idling time by 30 minutes per day, a company operating 16 buses could save over $2,500 per school year in reduced fuel costs.
- ✓ Reduces wear and tear on the engine – saving on maintenance costs and increasing the life of the engine!

New Hampshire School Transportation Association and
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services –
Working together to promote healthy breathing for everyone!

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School Bus Drivers Can Make A Difference!

Reduce School Bus Idling

Excessive exposure to diesel exhaust from school buses can pose a health risk for drivers and children. School bus drivers can make a significant impact on protecting the health of their passengers and their own health by limiting engine idling whenever practical. Here are some simple guidelines for school bus drivers to follow:

- All bus drivers should turn off engines when they reach the school or other destination, unless they will be leaving within a few minutes. **Please, do not allow buses to idle while waiting for passengers**.

- During morning start-up, buses should idle no longer than necessary to bring them to proper operating temperature and to defrost all windows.

Certain exceptions to the policy may be made (consistent with state regulations) under the following conditions:

- It is necessary to run the engine in order to operate safety equipment.
- The outside temperature is between 32 degrees and -10 degrees, idling is allowed for up to 15 minutes.
- The outside temperature is below -10 degrees, idling is allowed with no time restrictions.
- You need to maintain a safe temperature for students with special needs.

CLEAN AIR DRIVER

School Bus Drivers – Doing Our Share for Clean Air!

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