

6.0. Facilities and Transportation

6.0. VEHICLE IDLING

Adopted: February 14, 2012

Reviewed by Committee:

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Vehicle Idling Regulation & Procedure

School division personnel are expected to reduce the idle time of all vehicles on school division property. The public will be encouraged to reduce idling of vehicles while on school division property by use of signage and information. Modern engines with the proper lubricant do not require long warm up periods. Idling in excess of 5 minutes can harm a diesel engine.

Unnecessary idling of both gasoline and diesel engines contributes to air pollution and exposes people to toxins that may contribute to health risks. Engine exhaust will emit sulphur dioxide (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter. Engines run less efficiently at idle due to lower combustion temperatures and as a result emit a greater percentage of pollutants per unit of fuel used. Engine exhaust also contributes to global warming.

Procedures for school buses:

1. As per the Transportation Procedure Manual school drivers are to arrive at the school not earlier than 15 minutes prior to school dismissal and not later than 5 minutes prior to school dismissal. The school bus engine will be shut off upon arrival at the school and will remain off until all passengers are loaded and the bus can leave the bus loading area. This procedure shall apply to school buses on extra curricular trips while being unloaded, loaded or waiting. School bus drivers are encouraged to go into schools if the weather causes discomfort while waiting.

Exceptions to the above are:

- In extreme cold weather where heat is required to maintain safety and reasonable comfort.
- When the vehicle battery power is required to operate wheelchair lifts or other equipment.

2. At maintenance facilities when maintenance procedures require the engine running to perform inspections or tests, but only for the time required to perform the inspection or test.

Staff vehicle idling:

Staff are requested to be cognizant of the issues regarding excessive engine idling and participate in reducing the harmful effects of engine exhaust.

Service vehicle idling:

Delivery and other service vehicle operators bringing a vehicle onto school property are to be made aware of this policy by school administrators.

General public:

The idling of vehicles on school division property will be discouraged by providing the public with information via signage and written information in school newsletters and/or school projects.