

SECTION: BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TRANSPORTATION

TITLE: SCHOOL BUS/DIESEL VEHICLE IDLING

ADOPTED: January 12, 2009

REVISED:

# SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

810.7 SCHOOL BUS/DIESEL VEHICLE IDLING	
1. Purpose	The policy applies to the operation of every district-owned and/or contracted school bus and service delivery vehicles.
2. Rationale	Diesel exhaust from idling school bus/service vehicles can accumulate in and around the bus/service vehicle and pose a potential health risk to children, drivers and the community at large. Exposure to diesel exhaust may cause lung damage and respiratory problems. Diesel exhaust also exacerbates asthma and existing allergies and long-term exposure is thought to increase the risk of lung cancer. Idling buses/service vehicles also waste fuel and financial resources.
3. Purpose	Manage all unnecessary idling by district/contracted school buses/service vehicles such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus/service vehicle operations.
4. Guidelines	<p>1. When school bus/service vehicle drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas to drop off or pickup passengers/supplies, they should turn off their bus/vehicle as soon as possible to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions. The school bus/service vehicle should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick up/drop off area. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Extreme weather conditions</li> <li>B. Idling in traffic</li> </ul> <p>2. At school bus depots, limit idling time during early morning warm-up to what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally 3-5 minutes) in all but the coldest weather.</p> <p>3. Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.</p> <p>4. In cold weather, if the warmth of the bus/service vehicle is an issue, idling is to be at a very minimum and occur outside the school zone. The “warmed” bus/service vehicle is to enter the school zone as close to pick up/drop off time</p>
See 22 Pa. Code §11.41	
Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act 124 of 2008.	

as possible to maintain warmth and then shut down.

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

6. Transportation staff may revise bus schedules so that school bus caravanning can be avoided and the cleanest buses are assigned to the longest routes.

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

8. Verbal and written notice will be given to delivery drivers and/or their companies.

9. Signs should be prominently posted on school grounds and bus depots to remind all (car, bus and truck) drivers of the school's idling policy. (Owner or operator of a location where vehicles subject to this act load or unload or a location that provides 15 or more parking spaces for vehicles must place a sign informing drivers that idling is restricted in the commonwealth.)

**Exceptions most relevant for school districts:**

1. When a bus, school bus or school vehicle must idle to provide heating or air conditioning when non-driver passengers are onboard, provided that the bus does not idle for more than 15 minutes in a continuous 60-minute period, except when idling is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for students with special needs who are transported by a school bus or school vehicle.
2. When idling by a school bus or school vehicle off school property during queuing for the sequential discharge or pick-up of students is necessary because the physical configuration of a school or the school's surrounding streets does not allow for stopping.
3. On highway traffic, an official-control device or signal or a law enforcement official forces a vehicle to remain motionless.
4. To operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or cargo-refrigeration equipment in order to prevent a safety or health emergency and not for the purpose of a rest period or as otherwise necessary to comply with manufacturers' operating requirements, specifications and warranties.
5. For maintenance, particulate matter trap regeneration, service or repair of the vehicle or for vehicle diagnostic purposes.
6. When the idling is necessary to power work-related mechanical, safety or electrical operations other than propulsion.
7. Due to mechanical difficulties, the vehicle must idle, provided that the operator repairs the mechanical problem and provides proof to the

	<p>department within 30 days.</p> <p>8. For sampling, weighing, active loading or unloading, provided that it does not idle for more than 15 minutes in any continuous 60-minute period.</p> <p>Fines for violation of this statute can be placed against either the driver or owner of a diesel-powered motor vehicle or the owner or operator of a location where such vehicles load, unload or park. The fine is a summary offense and is set at a minimum of \$150 and a maximum of \$300 plus court costs. It also authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to assess other civil penalties for violations of the Air Pollution Control Act not to exceed \$1,000 per day. The law becomes effective February 9, 2009.</p>
--	--