

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: SCHOOL BUS IDLING

ADOPTED: January 24, 2006

REVISED:

	<p style="text-align: center;">810.2. SCHOOL BUS IDLING</p> <p>1. Purpose</p> <p>The purpose is to eliminate all unnecessary idling by school district buses, such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus operation.</p> <p>Diesel and gasoline exhaust from idling school buses can accumulate around the bus and pose a health risk to children, drivers, and the community at large. Exposure to diesel exhaust can 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 also waste fuel and financial resources.</p> <p>2. Guidelines</p> <p>When school bus drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible to reduce harmful emissions. The school bus 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 or idling in traffic.</p> <p>At school bus depots, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up to three (3) to five (5) minutes in all but the coldest weather.</p> <p>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>In colder weather, schools are directed to provide a space inside the school where bus drivers who arrive early can wait.</p> <p>In colder weather, if the warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a 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.</p> <p>This policy shall be included in the procedural manual for all bus drivers that they receive at the beginning of each school year. It will also be posted at the bus depot/garage and reviewed annually as part of bus driver safety training.</p>
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