

SCHOOL BUS IDLING

It is the policy of the Londonderry School District to eliminate all unnecessary idling by school buses, thereby reducing to school children exposure to the harmful diesel exhaust fumes.

Diesel exhaust poses a serious health risk to children, bus drivers, and the general community. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of diesel exhaust.

This policy applies to the operation of all District-owned and/or contracted school buses.

Control Measures

Upon arrival to a school loading zone, drivers will turn off engine after a recommended three-minute cool-down to prevent engine damage. Drivers will not restart their vehicle until departure time. Should weather conditions necessitate idling the bus, idling will be minimized and will take place outside the student loading zone. The bus will then pull in as close to pick-up time as possible, turn off engine, load students, and restart.

In colder weather, schools will provide if necessary a space for bus drivers who arrive early to wait inside the school.

Buses will not idle while waiting for students on field trips, events, or any trips off school grounds.

Service and delivery vehicles will not idle in the school zone. In instances where idling is necessary to facilitate delivery (such as oil delivery), deliveries will be scheduled before or after school hours, if possible.

All bus drivers and delivery companies will receive notification of this policy at the beginning of each school year. "No-idling Zone" signs will be placed in visible locations. The Board shall ensure that permanent signs, notifying drivers of the idling restrictions, are maintained on District property at locations where passengers load and unload.

The Board prohibits any diesel-powered motor vehicles weighing 10,001 pounds or more to idle for more than five (5) minutes in any continuous sixty minute period while parked, loading, or unloading, except as allowed by law.

There are exceptions as follows:

1. When a bus, school bus, or school vehicle must idle to provide heating or air conditioning when non-driver passengers are onboard. For the purpose of this exemption, a bus, school bus, or school vehicle may idle for no more than a total of fifteen (15) minutes in a continuous sixty-minute period except when idling is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for students with special needs who are transported by school bus or school vehicle.

This exception does not apply to school buses or school vehicles that are waiting for students to board.

2. Cold Weather Provisions

If the outside temperature is between thirty-two degrees (32°) and negative ten degrees (-10°) Fahrenheit, idling to operate heaters is allowed for up to fifteen (15) minutes.

If the outside temperature is below negative ten degrees (-10°) Fahrenheit, there is no time restriction on idling to use heating equipment.

3. 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 configuration of a school or the school's surroundings street does not allow for stopping.

Statutory Reference:

RSA 200:11-a

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD

Adopted: June 7, 2011