

Policy EDAH: Bus Idling/Idle Reduction for Buses

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 04/21/2022 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/24/2022

Applicability:

This policy applies to the operation of every district-owned and/or contracted school bus.

Rationale:

Diesel exhaust from idling school buses can accumulate in and 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.

Purpose:

Eliminate all unnecessary idling by Jackson County School District school buses such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus operation.

Guidance:

1. At school bus depots, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up to what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally 3-5 minutes) in all but the coldest weather.
 2. Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
 3. In colder weather, schools are directed to provide a space inside the school where bus drivers who arrive early can wait.
 4. In colder weather, if the warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a very 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.
 5. Transportation operations staff are directed to revise bus schedules so that school bus caravanning can be avoided and the lowest emission buses are assigned to the longest routes where feasible.
 6. All drivers shall receive a copy of this policy at the beginning of every school year.
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