

The board recognizes that emissions that accumulate from school buses can be harmful to students and bus drivers. The board further recognizes that unnecessary bus idling wastes fuel and financial resources. The board is committed to transporting students on school buses in a manner that is safe and consistent with the board's goal of resource conservation. To this end, the board prohibits all unnecessary school bus idling on school grounds. In addition, the board prohibits the warming up of buses for longer than 5 minutes, except in extraordinary circumstances or circumstances beyond the bus driver's control.

This policy applies to school buses and activity buses when used to transport students to and from school, extracurricular activities, field trips and other school-related activities.

The superintendent shall develop procedures consistent with this policy. The superintendent shall ensure that school bus drivers and appropriate school personnel receive training to implement this policy.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36; State Board of Education Policy Number EEO-M-003; N.C. Public School Allotment Policy Manual, State Allotment Formulas – Transportation of Students, Program Report Code 056 (as modified October 6, 2005)

Cross References: Resource Conservation (Policy 6530)

Adopted: December 8, 2005

SCHOOL BUS IDLING PROCEDURES

The following procedures are established to eliminate unnecessary idling of school buses:

A. Idling Times

1. Buses should not idle longer than five (5) minutes.
2. The following are considered extraordinary circumstances or circumstances beyond the driver's control for which an exception can be made to the five-minute idling rule:
 - a. while waiting in traffic
 - b. while loading/unloading students with special needs, as necessary
 - c. for traffic, safety or emergency situations
 - d. for maintenance or mechanical inspections or repair
3. To maintain interior warmth during cold weather, buses should be driven to the school as close to the scheduled pick-up time as possible, then turned off while waiting for students to load.

B. Bus Parking on School Grounds

1. Buses should not park “nose to tail” when it can be avoided.
2. Buses should not idle while loading or unloading on school grounds or at school-related activities.
3. Buses should not park on school grounds near building air-intake systems, unless the school district has determined that alternative parking locations interfere with traffic, impair student safety or are non cost-effective.
4. No bus should run without the driver being within three feet of the bus.

C. Signage

To the extent practicable, the principal will post “no idling” signs to alert bus drivers and parents to turn off vehicles when waiting or parked. The principal will ensure that parents in carpool lanes are informed of the school’s “no idling” policy.

Adopted: December 8, 2005