

Policies

Newport Public Schools

No. 2490

Administration - Risk Management -

Anti-Idling

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According to the Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to diesel exhaust, even at low levels, is a serious health hazard and can cause respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis. Asthma is currently the number one cause of missed school days for American children and asthma affects more than one in nine children in the Northeast. For these reasons, the Newport School Committee requires the following practices:

- School bus drivers will shut off bus engines upon reaching destination, and buses will not idle for more than five minutes while waiting for passengers. This rule applies to all bus use, including daily route travel, field trips, and transportation to and from athletic events. School buses will not be restarted until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.
- Prohibit idling of all vehicles for more than five minutes (including all passenger vehicles and delivery trucks) in the school zone. Appropriate signage must be posted.
- School bus companies and drivers will limit idling time during early morning warm-up to manufacturers' recommendations –generally five minutes in all but the coldest weather and for pre-trip safety inspections.
- Establish provision of indoor waiting space for drivers.
- Evaluate and shorten bus routes whenever possible, particularly for older buses with the least effusive emissions control.
- All bus drivers will receive a copy of the No Idling Policy and/or educational materials at the beginning of every school year.
- Exceptions to this policy are appropriate only to meet state regulations or when running an engine is necessary to operate required safety equipment or perform other functions that require engine-assisted power, e.g., waste-hauling vehicles, handicap accessible vehicles, etc.

History: Adopted: 12/08/2009