



What you need to know about...

School Bus Idling

How are Children Affected?

Bus idling and queuing increase the concentration of dangerous fine particulate matter (“soot”) pollution inside school bus cabins.

More than 24 million children ride the bus to and from school each day in the US. On average, students spend an hour and a half each weekday on a school bus.

Children breathe 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults, thereby increasing their exposure rate to carcinogens and respiratory irritants contained in diesel exhaust.

Diesel exhaust from idling can accumulate on and around the school buses, pollute the air inside the school building, and pose a health risk to children and school staff throughout the day.



Sample No-Idling Policy

School buses should not idle more than 3 minutes.

Doors of the school bus should be closed before the bus engines are started.

Park or idle buses away from school play areas, classroom windows, or air-intake systems.

Allow bus drivers to wait inside during extreme cold and hot weather. (Suggested waiting areas are the school cafeteria, lobby, office, or teacher’s lounge.)

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