

SCOTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Policy

Business/Non-Instructional Operations**Transportation****Anti-Idling Policy****Introduction**

The Scotland Board of Education (Board) is committed to providing a safe, healthy and productive environment for all persons occupying our schools. In light of the significant risk posed by school bus exhaust emissions, especially to children, the Board is implementing a bus idling policy. This policy is intended to improve the health and safety of all individuals in or around the school and school grounds and reduce risks associated with exposure to vehicle exhaust (such as aggravated respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, decreased lung function, acute respiratory symptoms and chronic bronchitis).

Queuing of buses for pickup and drop-off as well as periods of idling during the bus commute itself can cause particular problems. The steps outlined below indicate the exact timing of specific changes to current operations, provide guidance on effective implementation and outline procedures for conflict resolution and enforcement:

Applicability

The Board has established a mandatory anti-idling policy which 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

The Board aims to eliminate all unnecessary idling by District owned and/or contracted school buses such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus operation.

Guidelines

In compliance with C.G.S 14-277(b), the Board adopts the following guidelines pertaining to the idling of school busses:

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Guidelines (continued)

1. The operator of any school bus shall not operate the engine of any bus for more than three consecutive minutes when the bus is not in motion.
2. A school bus operator is exempt from the above stated restriction when:
 - a. traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties beyond the operator's control force the bus to be stopped;
 - b. idling is necessary to operate heating, cooling, or auxiliary equipment necessary to accomplish the intended use of the bus, such as safety equipment;
 - c. the outdoor temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit;
 - d. idling is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for students with special needs;
 - e. the bus is being repaired; or
 - f. the bus is receiving or discharging passengers on a public highway or public road.

Anti-Idling Policy for Vehicles/Automobiles and Service Vehicles

The Board has established a voluntary anti-idling policy pertaining to personally owned and/or district contracted cars. The Board requests that drivers turn off their engines while waiting in their cars for more than three minutes to pick up students or adults, weather permitting.

The Board requests that all service vehicles turn their engines off while making deliveries to school buildings.

Dissemination of Policy

This policy shall be included in the student/parent handbook and on the school's/District website.

Signs shall be posted to remind drivers not to idle engines when on school property.

Conflict Resolution

Bus drivers, employees and visitors are expected to honor the anti-idling policy at the Scotland Elementary School by shutting off their engines upon arrival. Individual complaints concerning the implementation and/or enforcement of this policy should be discussed with the school bus fleet manager, school principal, or the superintendent of schools who will contact the individual bus driver. Concerns about staff, parents or service vehicle drivers who idle their vehicles on school grounds can be directed to the school principal at 860-423-0064.

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Penalties

A first offense of the idling law is an infraction that currently carries a total fine of \$117 (Superior Court Mail-In Violations and Infractions Schedule, effective October 1, 2017), and subsequent violations are punishable by fines of between \$100 and \$500 (CGS § 14-277(c)).

Legal Reference Connecticut General Statutes

- 14-277(b) Operator's duties on stopping bus. Prohibition on idling of bus.
- 14-1(i) Motor vehicles: definitions.
- 14-212 (8) Definitions - "Student transportation vehicle."
- 14-212 (2) Definitions - "Carrier."
- 14-276 to 14-279 re: school bus operators et. al.