



Policy: School Bus Idling
Policy Number: EDA
Policy Type: Support Services

Policy

Hanover School Division acknowledges that exhaust from idling school buses can accumulate in and around the bus and pose a health risk to students, staff, drivers, and the community at large.

Exposure to 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 and contribute to global warming.

To reduce the potential health risks associated with diesel exhaust fumes, Hanover School Division will eliminate all unnecessary idling of school buses, such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus operation.

Guidelines

1. School bus drivers will limit the idling time during the early morning warm-up of the bus to 5 minutes in all but the most extreme weather conditions.
2. Drivers will turn off the school bus once they have arrived at a loading or unloading area. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety such as:
 - Extreme weather conditions
 - Idling in traffic
 - When wheelchair passenger stops are involved
3. Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
4. In colder weather, if warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be kept to a 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 during shut down.

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| Date Policy Created | May 7, 2013 |
| Date of last Review: | Feb.1, 2022 |
| Reference(s): | Additional Information: Department of Natural Resources: The Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) Hanover School Bus Driver Handbook was used as a resource for the development of the policy. |
| Related Forms: | |