

FOSTER-GLOCETER REGIONAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
School Bus No Idling Policy

Applicability:

This policy applies to the operation of every diesel-powered school bus operating in the district and owned and/or used by the signatory school bus companies hired by the town of Foster and the Town of Gloucester to transport students.

In collaboration with our district's school bus transportation provider, our school district agrees to undertake the following steps immediately:

- School bus drivers will shut off bus engines upon reaching their destination, and buses will not idle 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.
- School bus companies and drivers will limit idling time during early morning warm-up to manufacturers' recommendations in warm weather. Below are guidelines for idling in cold weather.

If the outside temperature is: Above 20 degrees F:	5 minute maximum
Between – 10 and 20 degrees F	15 minute maximum
Below – 10 degrees F:	as necessary

- Our district's schools will provide an indoor waiting space for drivers who arrive early and need to keep warm. This reduces the need for bus idling.
- Transportation operations staff will evaluate and shorten bus routes whenever possible, particularly for older buses with the least effective emissions control. Our district will review bus purchasing schedules and routing to further improve emission performance in conjunction with the district's transportation provider.
- School district bus drivers will complete a "no idling" training session. All bus drivers will receive a copy of this No Idling policy or equivalent educational materials at the beginning of every school year.
- The construction of new schools will incorporate measures to minimize children's exposure to diesel emissions. All schools will design bus parking zones to limit diesel exhaust inside the bus and in the school, including avoiding proximate school air intake vents, and parking buses on the diagonal to prevent front-to-back passing of emissions and to reduce diesel fumes in each bus. The direction of prevailing winds should be considered.
- To reduce engine warm-up time, avoid starting difficulties, and help defrost windows, bus companies will consider using block heaters that plug into electrical outlets or inline auxiliary fuel fired heaters.

First Reading: April 7, 2015

Second Reading/Adoption: May 4, 2015