

Apple Bus Company

School Bus Idling Policy and Practice

Idling of school buses contributes to poor air quality, consumes fuel unnecessarily and is harmful to engines. In recognition of these facts Apple Bus Company is committed to providing a safe, healthy and productive environment for all persons. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each school bus operator and further, is the policy and practice of Apple Bus Company to minimize idle time, at all times, regardless of where the bus may be parked and when weather conditions permit to limit idle time to that which is necessary per engine manufacturer recommendations with regard to idling during start up. Idling during start up is necessary for late model, diesel engine computers to perform engine diagnostics and in most cases the onboard computer immobilizes the bus until full diagnostics have been performed by the engine computer. This policy will be in place so long as it does not interfere with a particular District's policy or is in conflict with state or federal law or guidelines.

It is important to note that given certain atmospheric conditions it becomes prudent for the bus operator to start and to idle the bus as children load or immediately subsequent to their boarding and before operating the bus in order to clear the inside windows of the school bus of condensation created by the sudden boarding of dozens of passengers onto a cooling or cold school bus. It is further important to note that bus operators are typically expected to warm cold field trip school buses before the passenger's board. With extremely cold temperatures the time necessary to warm the school bus even a few degrees can take 15 minutes or more. Warming a school bus, even if for an extended period of time is generally considered preferable to having athlete's that are still sweating from the rigors of an event board an extremely cold school bus. Additional considerations are those school buses serving special needs passengers. It is important to be aware of any special needs passengers that are medically fragile in a manner that makes them sensitive to extreme temperature swings. With these passengers it is generally expected and accepted that the school bus will idle as necessary and to the extent the equipment and the operator are able to do so to protect these passengers from extreme temperature changes.