

# N.Y.S. Anti-Idling Law & Regulation



Chapter 670 Law of 2007 bans idling of school buses on or adjacent to school grounds = Education Law 3637

8 NYCRR 156.3 (h) establishes school district responsibility and bus driver requirements.

Notice: To all school personnel within 5 days of school start.

# Education Law section 3637



Requires School Districts to:

- Minimize school bus idling
- Engines to be shut off while waiting for passengers to load
- Applies to all school vehicles
- Owned, leased or contracted for
- While parked or standing on school grounds or in front of any school
- Annually provide notice to employees

# 8 NYCRR 156.3 (h)



## Requires School Districts & Drivers:

- Shut off engines while waiting for students to load
- Applies to owned, leased or contracted
- While parked or standing on school grounds or in front of any school
- Semi-annual: monitor driver compliance
- Exceptions for safety, emergency and mechanical work.



## Law & Regulations Require School Bus Drivers to:

1. Limit idling time during warm-up
2. Park away from building fresh air intakes
3. Park diagonally in school loading areas
4. Instruct students to board the bus promptly in the afternoon to reduce loading time
5. Turn the bus off during sporting or other events – relax inside until the event is over



# What's So Bad About Idling Anyway?

- Diesel exhaust contains cancer causing substances!
- Diesel exhaust contains particulate matter which exacerbates asthma and other respiratory conditions
- Idling increases the amount of diesel exhaust entering a bus
- Children are especially susceptible to diesel exhaust
- Students walking by idling buses inhale large amounts of diesel exhaust
- Idling buses often park under fresh air intakes at schools - causing diesel exhaust to be drawn into the school's indoor air system



# Impact of Diesel Exhaust on our Children

Kids respiratory systems are still developing; they breathe faster taking in more air.

Diesel exhaust has billions of small particles that become lodged in their lungs

Can cause lung damage, aggravate asthma, bronchitis and other health problems.





# Impact of Diesel Exhaust on our Health

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identified 21 harmful chemicals

Pollutants in bus exhaust can cause or trigger lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, impaired immune function, decreased lung function and shortness of breathe.





# Impact of Diesel Exhaust on our Community

Adverse effects of diesel hurt the entire population not just children.

Idling reduces crop yields.

Acid rain damages trees and means fewer fish in lakes and streams of Adirondacks.

Increases growth of algae and harms costal waters of Long Island Sound.

Leads to increased hospital admissions, emergency room visits and lost time from work and school.





# Common Idling Myths



**Idling Myth #1:** Warm your bus up for 20-30 minutes before you start your route in the morning, so the engine will reach running temperature before you leave the yard.

**Idling Fact:** Modern diesel engines don't reach running temperature until they're driven on the road.



# Idling Myths

**Idling Myth #2:** Idling longer than 5 minutes before starting on your route is better for the engine.

**Idling Fact:** Excessive idling increases engine wear and wastes fuel.



# Idling Myths

**Idling Myth #3:** Don't shut your bus off during athletic events or field trips far from home, in case it won't start.

**Idling Fact:** A well-maintained modern bus will start every time – if a bus doesn't start every time, it should be repaired.



# Another Idling Myth

**Idling Myth #4:** Idling is necessary to keep the cabin comfortable for the kids.

**Idling Fact:** There are auxiliary heaters that can be purchased to heat up the bus. Idling is not an efficient way to heat the cabin. Routes should be planned to spend less time waiting.



# A Final Idling Myth

**Idling Myth #5:** There's no way to avoid exposure to diesel exhaust when our buses line up in the school loop for afternoon dismissal.

**Idling Fact:** There's no need for bus drivers to line up so early in the school loop, or to leave their engines running while waiting for afternoon dismissal to begin.



# All Rules Have Exceptions...

Idling may be necessary in certain conditions, including:

- Occupant safety and comfort when temperature is below 20 degrees F
- For Mechanical Work - or to defrost the windshield for visibility
- Emergencies - need to run the wheelchair lift



# Financial Impact of Excessive Idling

- Increased fuel costs – idling buses can consume  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of fuel an hour, or more
- More frequent oil changes
- Higher maintenance costs
- Decreased engine life





*You can play a big role in improving children's health and the environment*



Thank You

For Caring About Children