



Prince George County Public Schools

A Commitment To Quality Education

PGCS Transportation Department's Idling Policy

The Board recognizes that although vehicle idling is necessary; in certain circumstances it poses health risks to the community and consumes financial resources of the school corporation. The Board therefore adopts the following policy in an effort to minimize unnecessary vehicle idling on school grounds.

This policy applies to the operation of any vehicle on school grounds.

Vehicle Idling: Indoor air quality can also be affected by exhaust from idling or running vehicles. To prevent infiltration of vehicle exhaust in to the school building, vehicles at loading docks and parking lots and/or within one hundred (100) feet of the school building will not be allowed to idle or remain running.

A. Exemptions

1. Safety of Children or Emergencies

a. Use of lift equipment during loading or unloading of individuals with special needs.

b. Use of heater or air conditioning during loading or unloading of individuals with special needs.

c. Use of defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or any other equipment for health or safety concerns.

d. Use of bud headlights or flasher warning lights for safety or visibility purposes.

e. For other safety or emergency issues.

2. Hot or Cold Weather

a. If bus drivers are at a location more than 15 minutes, a waiting area should be provided for their use after turning off the bus engine.

b. If necessary due to cold temperatures, a vehicle may idle for a minimal time to warm the vehicle:

i. If outdoor temperatures are 32 degrees or above; 5 minutes of warm-up.

ii. If outdoor temperatures are 20 to 32 degrees; 15 minutes of warm-up.

iii. If outdoor temperatures are 20 degrees and below; 30 minutes of warm-up (or until front windows are defrosted and all safety equipment is operable).

3. Maintenance Operations

a. (When possible, maintenance operations should not be conducted within 100 feet of a school building housing classrooms.) Buses may idle as necessary as part of a pre-trip safety inspection.

b. If necessary to make emergency repairs to vehicles. (For example jump starting another vehicle.)

B. Anti-Idling: In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's initiative to reduce air pollution from diesel school buses, all bus drivers shall adhere to the following procedures:

1. Limit idling time during early morning and/or afternoon warm-up to the maximum time recommended by the manufacturer.

2. Turn off buses upon arrival at the unloading/loading area at any school and do not start them until it is time to depart from the unloading/loading area.

3. Adhere to the preceding procedures not only at the school when transporting students on field trips, but also at the site of the field trip.

C. Smart Driving Procedures: In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's initiative to reduce air pollution from diesel school buses, the Transportation Director shall adhere to the following procedures:

1. Assign the buses that have the cleanest emission rating to the longest trips.

2. Remind bus drivers regularly that following other diesel vehicles too closely, either on regular runs or field trips, can contribute to higher concentrations of diesel exhaust inside and outside the bus.

3. Include the most stringent emission control standards recommended by the E.P.A. when developing specifications for new buses.

4. Change circuit configurations so that the flashing lights are powered by the battery and do not require the engine to be running to be operational.