

SCHOOL BUS IDLING

This policy applies to the operation of every district-owned and/or contracted diesel-powered school bus.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is, to the extent practical and possible, safeguard the health of students and staff by eliminating all unnecessary bus idling by Harvey School District.

Procedures

1. When school bus drivers drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions (generally three to five minutes or as otherwise recommended by the bus manufacturer). The school bus should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pickup area. This policy applies before, during, and after the school day, during field trips, extracurricular activities, or other events where students are transported off school grounds. Exceptions to this policy shall be made when conditions could compromise passenger safety, such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Cold or extreme weather conditions or when necessary to keep the windshield clear.
 - b. Idling in traffic or when stopped at an official traffic control device or sign.
 - c. When necessary to operate a wheelchair lift.
 - d. When necessary during emergencies.
2. Buses shall be warmed in areas that will minimize diesel exposure to students and staff. The “warmed” bus is to enter the loading zone as close to pick up time as possible and then follow the idling procedure listed in #1 above.
3. The District shall make a reasonable attempt to contact service delivery drivers that deliver goods to the school and request that drivers turn off their engines when making school deliveries unless idling is necessary in the event of cold or extreme weather.
4. The Transportation Director is directed to revise bus schedules so that school bus caravanning can be avoided, and the cleanest buses assigned to the longest routes.
5. All drivers shall receive a copy of this policy at the beginning of every school year.

End of Harvey School District #38 Policy IEAE Adopted:8/10/2010