

**POLICY  
8414.6**

**BUS IDLING**

**Introduction**

Public health, a clean environment and conservation of resources are primary concerns of the Lawrence Union Free School District Board of Education. The Board recognizes that diesel exhaust from idling school buses poses a substantial health risk to children, drivers and the community at large. The Board further recognizes that idling buses waste fuel and financial resources. The Board is committed to transporting students in a manner that is safe and sensitive to the health and environmental effects of diesel exhaust. In furtherance of these concerns, the Board resolves to limit the idling time for school buses in its employ.

- (a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this policy is to reduce student, driver and community exposure to diesel exhaust particulate matter, and to reduce fuel costs related to waste of diesel fuel by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 217-3.3.
- (b) **Applicability.** This policy applies to district-owned school buses and contracted school buses while being operated for the purpose of transporting the school district's students at public expense
- (c) **Idling Control Measure.**
  - 1. A school bus must not be allowed to idle for more than 5 minutes when loading or discharging students, or waiting to load or discharge students at any destination, including field trips and sports events. The following exceptions, limited to health, safety, and maintenance reasons, shall apply and idling is permissible:
    - (a) if necessary to comply with state and federal regulations
    - (b) as necessary to build air pressure to the level required to operate the vehicle
    - (c) in order to maintain or repair the vehicle
    - (d) if necessary to operate an auxiliary loading or unloading device or of discharging passengers has taken so long that there is a risk of draining the battery of sufficient power to operate safety measures or to restart the bus
    - (e) in order to maintain an interior temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit when the outside temperature is less than 50 degrees or to maintain an interior temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit when the temperature outside is more than 80 degrees.
    - (f) if necessary to accommodate a student with a disability

2. Idling for the purposes of warming up the engine must be kept to the length of time recommended by the manufacturer (usually 3-5 minutes).
3. If the School Bus is transporting students into New York City, the driver must comply with the New York city regulation which limits idling to three minutes

**Adopted by Board of Education: April 25, 2006**