

EMERGENCY FUEL CONSERVATION**Introduction**

From time to time, situations develop in the operation of schools that require the implementation of emergency fuel conservation procedures. These events might occur as a result of budget reductions or as outcomes of severe economic situations, including escalating cost for fuel. Fuel shortages create severe hardships for those individuals who depend upon school transportation for school attendance and other activities. In such situations, it is imperative that action be taken in a timely manner to reduce the loss of a valuable resource to the school system.

This policy outlines measures which may be required to conserve fuel. It is not intended to serve as a means of normal operation, and should be implemented only as circumstances require. This policy is divided into two steps: The first step requires an increase in fuel conservation from the preceding year. Determination of the amount of increase will be made by the Superintendent. Step two requires more stringent measures.

Step 1

1. Provide school bus transportation only on state maintained roads.
2. Eliminate deviations from main bus routes that are under one (1) mile from school for high school and middle school students and .5 mile for elementary students.
3. Strictly enforce State idling policy, reduce engine idling time —idle engines only long enough to bring oil and brake readings to a safe level.
4. Combine bus stops by utilizing the state recommended distances of no less than .2 mile between bus stops.
5. Protect buses from fuel theft.
6. Ask each school and school district to complete a detailed study of bus routes and make changes that will make them as cost effective as possible.
7. Take measures to reduce or eliminate vandalism to buses.
8. Start buses when all students are on board and ready to depart.

9. Study the loading and unloading procedures utilized at school sites to eliminate unnecessary moving of buses on school grounds.
10. Expect each school district to achieve a ten percent reduction in total mileage and in total cost.

Step 2

By mid-year, provided the necessary reduction in total mileage and total cost is not achieved, Step 2 will be initiated and may involve the staggering of school schedules.

Other suggested means

1. Transport kindergarten through grade twelve on the same buses, and
2. Eliminate transportation to some programs.

General Provisions

1. The school system and each school will encourage the parents to share the supervision of children at bus stops.
2. The schools will double their efforts to inform and teach the students school bus safety on the way to and from the bus stop, at the bus stop, and on the bus.

Specific implementation of the policy is reserved to the Superintendent.

Replaces Board Policy 540

History of Policy 540

Adopted: August 6, 1992

Revisions replacing Board Policy 540 adopted: March 2, 2017