

SCHOOL BUS IDLING

APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to the operation of every school bus owned or operated by Regional School Unit 56 **In collaboration with our district's school bus drivers, our school district agrees to undertake the following steps immediately:**

- School bus drivers will shut off bus engines when idling for more than 20 minutes or upon reaching final destination. This rule applies to all bus use, including daily route travel, field trips, and transportation to and from athletic events. School buses will not be restarted until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.
- School bus drivers will limit idling time to manufacturers' recommendations for the pre-trip safety inspections. Below are guidelines for idling:

If the outside temperature is:	Above 32 degrees F	10 minute maximum
	Between -10 and 32 degrees F	20 minute maximum
	Below -10 degrees F	as necessary
	Exceptions for DEF buses (DEF-Diesel Exhaust Fluid)	20 minutes

- Our district's schools will provide an indoor waiting space for drivers who arrive early and need to keep warm. This reduces the need for bus idling.
- School district bus drivers will complete a "no idling" training session. All bus drivers will receive a copy of this No Idling Policy or equivalent educational materials at the beginning of every school year.
- RSU 56 will incorporate measures to minimize children's exposure to emissions.
- To reduce engine warm-up time, avoid starting difficulties, and help defrost windows, the school bus company will use block heaters that plug into electrical outlets.
- RSU 56 agrees to maintain buses according to manufacturers' specifications.
- Exceptions to this policy are granted only when running the engine is necessary to operate required safety equipment or to maintain a safe environment for students with special health needs.

Adopted: July 11, 2017