

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT TWENTY FOUR

IDLING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSES AND PRIVATE VEHICLES ON SCHOOL DISTRICT GROUNDS

POLICY 7400

Allowing vehicles to idle (i.e., stopped with the engine running) produces unnecessary exhaust gas, which contains harmful chemicals and pollutants. In addition to negatively impacting the environment, these substances can cause cancer and other health problems, especially in children. Idling vehicles is not necessary to properly run or maintain vehicles, and in fact increases engine wear and wastes fuel.

Recognizing these factors, the Board of Education shall take steps to reduce the idling of school buses and other school vehicles. In compliance with Education Law § 3637 and Commissioner's Regulations § 156.3(h), this policy shall govern the idling of school buses and all other school vehicles, whether owned, leased, or contracted for by the School District.

Unless otherwise provided by State, federal, or local law, anyone operating a school bus or other school vehicle must turn off the engine (no idling) in the following instances:

- a. while waiting for passengers to load and unload on school grounds;
- b. when the vehicle is parked or standing on school grounds, or in front of or adjacent to any school; or
- c. during sporting and other school events.

However, idling may be permitted under the following conditions:

- a. when necessary for mechanical work, or to keep the windshield clear of ice;
- b. when necessary to maintain an appropriate temperature for passenger comfort (if auxiliary heaters are not available); or
- c. when necessary during emergency evacuations and/or where necessary to operate wheelchair lifts.

Bus Loading and Unloading Practices

When possible, drivers must:

- a. Instruct students to board the bus promptly in the afternoon to reduce loading time;
- b. Park diagonally to minimize exhaust from the bus from entering adjacent buses or school buildings;
- c. Turn off the bus engine during sporting or other events.

Contracts for Student Transportation

If the School District contracts with private vendors for student transportation services, any such contract entered into on or after August 21, 2008 shall include a provision requiring compliance by the vendor with the state's bus idling laws and regulations and this policy.

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT TWENTY FOUR

IDLING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSES AND PRIVATE VEHICLES ON SCHOOL DISTRICT GROUNDS

POLICY 7400

Privately-Owned Vehicles

All privately-owned passenger vehicles, including cars, minivans, pick-up trucks, and SUV's, shall not idle while on school property.

Monitoring and Review

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with the requirements of law and regulations summarized in this policy. The Board shall receive a periodic report on the School District's compliance with this policy.

Notice Requirements

The School District shall annually provide notice of these requirements to all school personnel within five (5) school days after the start of the school year on the School District's website and at the School District Business Office, as well as post "no-idling" signs at each school building. In addition, the School District shall provide notice of these requirements in the format prescribed and provided by the Commissioner to new school personnel within five (5) school days of their beginning employment in the School District.

Cross-ref: 5500 Student Transportation Services

Ref: Vehicle and Traffic Law § 142
Education Law § 3637
6 NYCRR 217-3
8 NYCRR 156.3(h)
Nassau County, NY Ord. 95-2006

Adoption Date: February 26, 2020

Revised: March 29, 2023