

SCHOOL BUS IDLING

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

The purpose of this policy is to eliminate all unnecessary idling by Columbia Local School District school buses and vehicles, such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school district operations.

1. During weather when the warmth of a vehicle is not an issue, there will be no idling of any bus or vehicle in the school loading/unloading zone. The only exception will be a wheelchair special needs bus or vehicle to allow loading/unloading of students.

Drivers and Principals are subject to fines if these rules are not adhered to according to OAC 3301.

At the school bus compound, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up periods to what the manufacturer recommends (generally 3-5 minutes) except in cold weather conditions.

Warm-up idle time in warm weather should be done only during pre-trip and air build-up time.

2. In cold weather conditions, if the warmth of the bus or vehicle is an issue, idling is to be at the very minimum and occur outside of the school loading/unloading zone. The "warmed" bus or vehicle is to enter the school zone as close to pickup time as possible to maintain warmth and then shut off the engine.
3. Buses or vehicles should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities, or other events where students are transported off of school grounds. During inclement weather, the driver's discretion should be used as to idling and student health. Safety is to be the utmost concern.
4. The Transportation Supervisor shall provide all school bus drivers with a copy of this policy at the beginning of every school year.

Legal Refs.: House Bill 203, Jared's Law
OAC 3301.83.20(O)

Adopted: October 15, 2008

Columbia Schools, Columbia Station, Ohio