

### **NO VEHICLE IDLING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

**Purpose:** It is the policy of Sharon Springs Central School to eliminate all unnecessary idling by school buses and other vehicles thereby reducing exposure by school children to air pollution and the harmful effects of exhaust fumes and emissions.

**Rationale:** Vehicle exhaust fumes pose a serious health risk to children, bus drivers, and the general community. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of vehicle exhaust fumes. Vehicle exhaust fumes can accumulate in and around school buses and cause lung damage and respiratory problems as well as exacerbating asthma and allergies. Exposure may also impair a child's learning abilities.

**Applicability:** This policy applies to the operation of all school buses and other vehicles on school grounds.

#### **Control Measures**

1. Upon arrival to the school loading zone, drivers will turn off engine and not restart until time to depart. Buses should not idle while loading or unloading.
2. All buses should be loaded and doors closed before engines are turned on. Should weather conditions necessitate, idling the bus will be minimized (see Cold Weather Provision).
3. Buses will not idle while waiting for students on field trips, events, or any trips off school grounds.
4. Loading zone, when feasible, will be located at least 100 feet from air intakes, doors, and windows of the school building. When this is not possible, school personnel will take steps to limit air intake during loading and unloading times.
5. When possible, buses will use a diagonal parking pattern with the front end towards the school entrance rather than the typical nose-to-tail pattern.
6. Service and delivery vehicles will not idle in school zone.

Sharon Springs Central School shall communicate this policy to all parents and employees and school bus companies at the beginning of each school year. "No Idling Zone" signs will be placed in visible locations.

**Cold Weather Provisions:** If the outside temperature is less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit, buses are permitted to idle for five (5) minutes.

**Requirements of School Bus Drivers:**

1. Instruct pupils on the necessity to board the bus promptly to reduce loading time.
2. Park the school bus in loading areas to minimize the amount of exhaust from adjacent buses that may enter the school bus and school building.
3. Turn off the engine during sporting or other events.

**Exemptions:**

1. When the bus engines are required to operate special equipment for disabled students;
2. When the use of defrosters, heaters or other equipment is required for safety or health considerations;
3. Use of bus headlights or four way-flasher warning lights for visibility purposes;
4. For other traffic, safety, or emergency situations;
5. Mechanical Work; and
6. In any of the above cases, if equipment can be run from the battery then the drivers should refrain from idling, unless there is a significant concern of draining the battery.

**Additional Applications:**

This no idling policy shall apply to all personal and work vehicles entering school property during school hours.

Educate all students on the effects of idling on our health and the environment.