

MODEL POLICY RELATING TO THE IDLING OF VEHICLES OTHER THAN SCHOOL BUSES WHEN PRESENT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

CONTEXT AND REASON FOR MODEL POLICY: ACT 48 OF 2007 Sec. 2. SCHOOL BOARDS; VEHICULAR IDLING

Nothing in this act or in department of education rules shall prevent a school board from adopting idling policies for motor vehicles other than school buses when present on school premises. By January 1, 2008, the department of education shall develop a model policy relating to idling of vehicles other than school buses to be distributed to schools for their use.

Applicability: This policy applies to all motor vehicles, other than school buses, while on school grounds. School buses are addressed in proposed Rule 6001.

Background: The school board recognizes that motor vehicle idling poses a risk to people in the vicinity and to the environment. The inhalation of motor vehicle exhaust may contribute to human health problems, air pollution, and global climate change. In addition, exposure to motor vehicle exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems and can exacerbate asthma and existing allergies. State law limits the idling of school buses while waiting to board or exit students at a school, and requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules implementing school bus idling limitations.

It is the intent of the school board to also limit the idling of motor vehicles other than school buses on school grounds.

Definition: As used in this policy, the term “school grounds” shall mean any area adjacent to school buildings and used at any time for school related activities, including parking lots, playing fields and driveways.

Policy: Subject to exceptions developed by the (principal or superintendent), the operators of motor vehicles, other than school buses, shall not allow their vehicles to idle while on school grounds.

The superintendent or his or her designee shall:

- Post “limited idling” or “no idling” signs to notify the operators of motor vehicles on school grounds that engines must be turned off when a vehicle is waiting or parked.
- If practicable, identify an indoor waiting area for individuals waiting for students.
- Prohibit the use of remote engine starter devices by school staff.
- Prohibit the idling of delivery vehicles when loading or unloading. Where engine idling is needed to facilitate delivery (such as fuel delivery), delivery shall not take place when school is in session.
- Prohibit the idling of vehicles used by visiting schools while waiting for students during school sponsored events.

- Develop and enforce regulations to allow limited idling as needed for health and safety, such as to operate equipment to accommodate students with disabilities or to defrost windshields when required for safe vehicle operation.
- Study the feasibility of relocating school building air intake systems away from parking areas when practical and shall consider other measures to reduce intake of vehicle exhaust where relocating intake systems is not feasible. The superintendent or his or her designee shall report his or her findings to the school board prior to (date).

Legal References: 23 V.S.A. §1282(f); Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, Rule 6001

Date Warned:

Date Adopted: