

# Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Idling Policy

School District Name: Fond du Lac Ojibwe Schools

Policy Number: #####

Effective Date: September 1, 2014

## INTRODUCTION

Fond du Lac Ojibwe Schools and Fond du Lac Transportation are committed to providing a safe, healthy and productive environment for all persons occupying our schools, community centers and businesses. In light of the significant risk posed by bus and vehicle exhaust emissions, especially to children, Fond du Lac Ojibwe Transportation Division and Environmental Program is implementing a bus idling policy. This policy is intended to reduce risks associated with exposure to vehicle and especially diesel exhaust (such as aggravated respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, decreased lung function, acute respiratory symptoms and chronic bronchitis) in and around the school grounds. Queuing of vehicles for pickup and drop-off as well as periods of idling during the bus commute itself can cause particular problems. The steps outlined below indicate the exact timing of specific changes to current operations, provide guidance on effective implementation and outline procedures for conflict resolution and enforcement:

## APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to the operation of every district-owned and contracted school bus as well as any vehicle in the Ojibwe School zone; type of fuel burned is irrelevant. This is to include, but not limited to, delivery and service vehicles and personal vehicles.

## RATIONALE

Vehicle exhaust, diesel and gasoline, from idling buses and vehicles can accumulate in and around the vehicle and pose a health risk to children, drivers and the community at large. Exposure to diesel exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems. Diesel exhaust also exacerbates asthma and existing allergies and long-term exposure is thought to increase the risk of lung cancer. Idling buses/vehicles also waste fuel and financial resources.

## PURPOSE

Eliminate all unnecessary idling by Fond du Lac Transportation buses and vehicles in the school zone such that idling time is minimized in all aspects of transportation operation.

## GUIDANCE

### A. Policy Implementation

1. Beginning Sept. 1, 2014, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School requires all buses and vehicles to eliminate idling while on school grounds. Adhering to this policy will improve surrounding air quality; protect the health of drivers, students and others; conserve fuel (save money); and decrease engine wear.
2. All school zone drivers shall receive a copy of this policy upon implementation.
3. All school bus drivers shall receive a copy of this policy at the beginning of every school year.

### B. Guidelines to Reduce Exposure to Bus Exhaust Emissions

This rule applies to any bus service, including home-to-school, school activities or charter transportation.

1. Bus/vehicle idling on school grounds shall not occur without authorization from the Superintendent.
2. When school bus drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions. The school bus should not be

restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area. All other vehicles are to adhere to this rule when in the school zone.

3. At school bus depots, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up to three to five minutes in all but the coldest weather.
4. Buses shall not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
5. In colder weather, schools are directed to provide a space inside the school where bus drivers who arrive early can wait, if drivers so choose.
6. In colder weather, if the warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a very minimum and occur outside the school zone. The "warmed" bus is to enter the school zone as close to pick-up time as possible to maintain warmth and then shut down while waiting for students and during loading.
7. All service delivery vehicles shall turn off the engines while making deliveries to school buildings. Auxiliary heating and cooling units may be utilized.
8. Transportation Operations staff are requested to revise bus schedules so school bus caravanning can be avoided and the cleanest and most efficient vehicles are assigned to the longest routes.
9. During morning start-up, buses should idle no longer than necessary to bring engines to proper operating temperature, defrost all driving windows and operate all heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to ensure the safety and health of the driver and passengers. Vehicles with auxiliary heaters and cooling units are not to idle longer than five minutes.
10. Signs should be prominently posted on school grounds to remind all (car, bus and truck) drivers of our school's idling policy.

### **C. Conflict Resolution**

Bus drivers, employees and visitors are expected to honor the anti-idling policy at all school buildings and facilities by shutting off their engines upon arrival. Individual complaints or concerns regarding the implementation and/or enforcement of this policy should be discussed with the Transportation Supervisor at 218-878-8009, who will contact the individual bus driver. Concerns about staff or parents who idle their vehicles on school grounds can be directed to the Superintendent at 218-878-7258.

### **D. Enforcement of Policy**

All persons share in the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing this policy. Any person violating this policy will be subject to the similar disciplinary actions that accompany other infractions of our policies including:

1. Oral reminder
2. Written reprimand
3. Probation

### **REFERENCES**

1. *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools*, U.S. EPA, <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.
2. *Sample Idling Policy*, Clean School Bus USA, U.S. EPA, [http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/idling\\_policy.htm](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/idling_policy.htm)
3. National Idle Reduction Campaign, Clean School Bus USA, U.S. EPA, [http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/idling\\_policy.htm](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/idling_policy.htm)