

Vehicle Idling

The St. Vrain Valley School District is committed to providing a healthy and productive environment for all persons attending or visiting our schools and facilities. In light of the health risks posed by diesel and gasoline exhaust to our students, staff, community, and the environment, the St. Vrain Valley School District is implementing an idling policy, effective immediately. This policy is intended to reduce costs associated with idling and improve the health and air quality for all individuals in and around the schools and District facilities and the communities in which our vehicles travel. The following steps indicate changes to be implemented to current vehicle operations.

Applicability

This policy shall apply to all District employees utilizing any District-owned vehicle and/or equipment, including student transport and support fleet vehicles.

Purpose

The implementation of these practices shall eliminate all unnecessary idling by St. Vrain Valley School District vehicles to improve air quality, conserve fuel, and decrease engine wear.

Guidelines

1. Limit idling time during warm-up and cool down to manufacturer's recommendations – generally 3 to 5 minutes. Immediately after warm-up and pre-trip inspection, either depart the area for your assignment, or turn the vehicle off. At no time should a District vehicle be left unattended while it is idling.
2. All vehicles should be turned off as soon as possible and should not be allowed to idle while waiting for passengers or during loading/unloading. The vehicle should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area. Buses are not allowed to idle for more than 3 minutes while waiting in a school bus loading zone regardless of weather temperatures.
3. Where applicable, vehicles installed with engine block heater and/or engine pre-heaters shall be used and maintained in good working order to reduce the need for excessive idling at engine start up.
4. Exceptions to the policy may be made in extreme temperature events, when necessary to run the engine to operate required safety equipment, and/or to maintain a safe environment for drivers and passengers. The temperature guidelines for maximum engine idling are:
 - 10°F to 20°F: Drivers may allow engines to idle for no longer than 10 minutes.
 - 9°F and below: Drivers may allow engines to idle as necessary.

Adopted October 13, 2010

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado