

## **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. ACT 57 OF 2013 Sec. 28. SCHOOL BOARDS; VEHICULAR IDLING

Nothing in this act or in agency of education rules shall prevent a school board from adopting idling policies for motor vehicles other than school buses when present on school premises. The Agency of Education has developed a model policy relating to idling of vehicles other than school buses for distribution to schools for their use.

**Applicability:** This policy applies to all motor vehicles on school ground under the guidelines of [23 V.S.A. § 1110. Prohibited idling of motor vehicles](#) and [23 V.S.A. § 1282\(f\). School bus idling rule](#).

**Background:** The school board recognizes that motor vehicle idling poses a risk to people in the vicinity and to the environment. Exhaust from motor vehicle emissions may contribute to human health problems, air pollution, and global climate change. In addition, the EPA states monitoring at schools has shown elevated levels of air toxics during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents picking up their children. Children's lungs are still developing, and when they are exposed to elevated levels of these pollutants, children have an increased risk of developing asthma, respiratory problems and other adverse health effects. Limiting a vehicle's idling time can dramatically reduce these pollutants and children's exposure to them. State law limits the idling of school buses while waiting to board or exit students at a school, and prohibits the idling of all motor vehicles to five minutes in any 60-minute period (with exceptions).

It is the intent of the school board to further 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 "no idling" signs to notify the operators of motor vehicles on school grounds that idling is illegal; engines must be turned off when a vehicle is waiting or parked, particularly when picking up students.
- 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. New or renewed delivery vehicle contracts shall contain no-idling clause.
- 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).

**Policy Reinforcement:** To help make the policy effective, it is strongly suggested that information on the policy be disseminated in the school community at certain intervals, including annual letter to parents and delivery contractors, and quarterly reminders in school newsletters. Guidelines for additional reinforcement measures available at EPA Region 8 Idle Free Schools website: <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/idle-free-schools>

**Legal References:** 23 V.S.A. §1282(f); Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, Rule 6001. 23 V.S.A. § 1110; Prohibited idling of motor vehicles.

**Date Warned:**

**Date Adopted:**