

Student Transportation Vehicle Idling Protocol



PURPOSE

To outline employee expectations as it relates to the idling of District-owned school purpose and service vehicles.

SCOPE

This protocol applies to all vehicles and employees under District-operated student transportation services of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District.

RELATED GUIDANCE

This Vehicle Idling Protocol shall be read and applied in conjunction with:

- [District Policies](#); specifically [Vehicle Idling \(FIN-503\)](#)
- Other student transportation [Procedures and Instructions](#);
- [Department of Education School Bus Transportation Policies and Procedures](#);

DEFINITIONS

Vehicle Idling:	The continuous running of a vehicle's internal combustion engine while in a parked state.
Service Vehicles:	All motorized modes of transportation including cars, trucks, and vans that are operated by the Student Transportation Division for the District.
School Purpose Vehicle:	All school buses and private vehicles owned by the District to provide student transportation service.

BACKGROUND

The District recognizes that some idling is required for the safe operation of any vehicle, particularly school buses. Idling initiates the warming process to ensure windows can be kept clear. While keeping this in mind it is also important to ensure that vehicle idling is kept to a minimum to ensure the health and safety of employees, students and the general public at large. The exhaust from idling vehicles poses unnecessary health risks. Vehicle idling is also an inefficient use of financial resources.

PROTOCOL DIRECTIVES

- Idling is not the sole action in ensuring that the vehicle's normal operating temperature is achieved and maintained. A combination of idling and driving prior to first pickup may be required to achieve a suitable temperature. The below table outlines acceptable idling times as it relates to school buses during normal conditions prior to the initial run:

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Morning Idle

Temperature (excluding wind chill)	Allowable Idling Time
5° C and Greater	3-5 Mins
-5° C to 5° C	5-12 Mins
-15° C to -5 C	12-20 Mins
Less than -15° C	20-30 Mins

* Note: It takes 12-14 hrs for an engine that is up to temperature to cool to the outside temperature (Natural Resources Canada).

Afternoon Idle

Temperature (excluding wind chill)	Allowable Idling Time
5° C and Greater	0-1 Mins
-5° C to 5° C	1-5 Mins
-15° C to -5 C	5-10 Mins
Less than -15° C	10-20 Mins

- Vehicles are never to be left unattended while idling on school parking lots.
- Supervisors are expected to determine scheduled arrival times at schools to minimize idling times on school parking lots.
- When school bus drivers arrive at loading/unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they shall turn off their buses as soon as possible. The school bus shall not be restarted until students are dismissed from school. Exceptions include conditions that could potentially compromise passenger safety, such as:
 - 1) Extreme weather conditions
 - 2) Other traffic, safety, or emergency situations
 - 3) Requirements around the transportation of students with exceptionalities
- Supervisors can approve deviations from this protocol for extreme weather conditions in specific circumstances. An example of this would be extreme wind chills that can be as low as -50° C in the Labrador Region while school is in session.
- Any Student Transportation employee that fails to comply with this Protocol may be subject to disciplinary action.