



Muscogee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Back to School

MCSD Implements “No-Idling” Measures

(Columbus, GA) –The Muscogee County School District is committed to reducing student and driver exposure to diesel exhaust particular matter (soot) by eliminating unnecessary idling of school buses and other vehicles by adopting a “**No-Idling**” policy. The policy applies to district owned school buses, all other district vehicles, and all vehicles, which enter school property. Adherence to this policy will not only enhance the quality of the environment and quality of life of students, drivers and staff, but it will also assist in reducing energy costs.

A. Idling Control Measures

The following idling control measures have been implemented throughout the district.

1. Ensure that drivers park their buses at least 100 feet from a known and active school air intake system, unless alternative locations block traffic, impair student safety, are not cost effective, or are otherwise impractical.
2. Upon reaching a school or other destination, ensure drivers of school buses turn off their engines and not restart them until necessary to depart.
3. Post No-idling signs in school drop-off areas to remind operators of buses and other vehicles of the Muscogee County School District's no-idling policy.

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4. Advise vendors that delivery trucks may not idle on school property.
5. Advise parents/guardians/families dropping off or picking up students that they may not idle their vehicles on school property.
6. Relocate school-building air-intake systems more than one-hundred (100) feet away from school bus parking areas when practical; take other measures to reduce intake of exhaust where relocating intake systems is not feasible, such as regulating closure of air-intake vents near student loading and unloading areas.

B. Exemptions

Exemptions to the above idling control measures include the following:

1. Turbo-diesel Engine Cool Down or Warm-Up
 - a. To cool down a turbo-charged diesel engine for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes before turning off the engine, according to the bus manufacture specifications
 - b. To warm up a turbo-charged diesel engine for a period not to exceed three (3) minutes, according to the bus manufacture specification
2. Cold Weather
 - a. To operate heaters for up to fifteen (15) minutes if the outside temperature is between 32 degrees F and - 10 degrees F
3. Safety of Children, Special Needs Students, and Emergencies
 - a. When lift equipment is used during loading or unloading of children with one or more disabilities
 - b. During loading, unloading, or transporting of children with exceptional needs
 - c. Use of defroster, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment for safety or health considerations
 - d. Use of the headlights or four-way flasher warning lights for visibility purposes

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e. Idling in traffic or at railroad crossings

f. For other traffic, safety, or emergency situations

4. Maintenance Operations

a. To charge a battery of a school bus, if needed

b. For testing to verify that the bus is in safe operating condition as part of the daily pre-trip vehicle inspection, or as otherwise required, including to measure vehicle emissions

C. Implementation

The Transportation Department will insure all newly hired bus drivers are informed of the requirements of this policy and the reasons behind it and insure that all complaints of non-compliance are reviewed and remedial action is taken as necessary.

For more information, log onto www.mcsdga.net (Board Policy Manual Link) and access policy ED-R (1), or e-mail communications@mcsdga.net .

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