

**\*NEWLY PROPOSED ACPS POLICY**

**\*ORANGE TEXT REFLECTS FEEDBACK FROM THE 10/21/21 BOARD MEETING.**

**SCHOOL BUS AND VEHICLE IDLING**

**I. Generally**

To maintain a healthy school environment for students, staff, and the public, ACPS-owned school buses and vehicles will refrain from unnecessary idling.

ACPS recognizes that sometimes there may be a necessary purpose for idling buses in and around school buildings. A “necessary purpose” may include pre-trip safety inspections, running heat/defrosters, operating school bus lights, radios, or other accessories (unless they can operate without running the engine), or for engine cool-down after full-load operation.

**II. Idling Guidelines – School Buses**

ACPS’ “anti-idling” policy requires bus drivers to take the following steps:

**A. Pre-trip Guidelines**

- School bus drivers limit idling time during early morning warm-up to the extent necessary for conducting a pre-trip inspection and to ensure the safe operation of the vehicle.

**B. Warm weather**

- School bus drivers shut off bus engines upon reaching the destination and buses do not idle while waiting for passengers.
- This rule applies to all bus use, including daily route travel, field trips, and transportation to and from athletic events.
- When dropping off passengers at schools, if the bus is departing immediately after unloading, the bus may idle its engine, not to exceed three minutes.
- School buses are not restarted until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.

**C. Cold weather**

- School bus drivers shut off bus engines upon reaching the destination and buses do not idle while waiting for passengers.
- Certain conditions during a wait time (i.e., ice, snow, extreme cold), may warrant buses being restarted, but buses do not idle for more than three minutes.
- During extreme conditions (outside temperature is <32 degrees F), buses do not idle for more than 10 minutes, in accordance with the City of Alexandria Noise Ordinance and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Regulations.

**III. Idling Guidelines – Other ACPS-Owned Vehicles**

ACPS' "anti-idling" policy requires drivers of assigned ACPS fleet vehicles to refrain from idling near school entrances in order to maintain a healthy school environment. When vehicles are parked or waiting near school buildings, engines should be shut off and drivers should refrain from idling.

- Regardless of weather conditions and the location of the vehicle, ACPS-owned vehicles do not idle for more than three minutes.
- For diesel-powered trucks during extreme conditions (outside temperature is <32 degrees F), idling time does not exceed 10 minutes, in accordance with the City of Alexandria Noise Ordinance and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Regulations.

**IV. Notice of Policy**

All ACPS personnel approved to operate a motor vehicle, including the operation of school buses, will receive annual notification of this policy and its provisions.

Adopted:

Legal Refs.: 42 U.S.C. § 11301 et seq.  
42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12134.  
Public Law 93-113 § 504.

Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-176, 22.1-221, 22.1-254.

<u>Cross Refs.:</u>	<u>EEA</u>	<u>Student Transportation Services</u>
	<u>EEAB</u>	<u>School Bus Scheduling and Routing</u>
	<u>EEA-R/EEAB-R</u>	<u>Student Transportation Services Regulations</u>
	<u>EEAC</u>	<u>School Bus Safety Program</u>
	<u>EEAD</u>	<u>Special Use of School Buses</u>
	<u>EEBA</u>	<u>ACPS-Owned Vehicles</u>
	<u>EEBA-R</u>	<u>Use of ACPS-Owned Vehicles Regulations</u>
	<u>GDQ</u>	<u>School Bus Drivers</u>
	<u>IICA</u>	<u>Field Trips</u>
	<u>IICA-R</u>	<u>Field Trip Procedures</u>