



No Idling Campaign

Earth Day Network's **No Idling Campaign** is in partnership with The Clean Air Campaign, Inc. to reduce harmful vehicle emissions around children and instill environmental values in the next generation through a targeted focus on reducing unnecessary vehicle idling at K-12 schools across the country. Entire school communities are motivated to be a part of the solution through action-oriented projects and classroom lessons.

The purpose of the **No Idling Campaign** is to reduce pollution from idling buses and cars that negatively affects a child's healthy lung growth and development. Earth Day Network has partnered with The Clean Air Campaign, Inc. to take their success in impacting at least 220,000 people in the state of Georgia to a national level. This campaign provides solutions through toolkits for administrators and teachers and/or parents and collateral and educational materials for bus drivers and parent drivers.

The need for action is clear: excessive idling unnecessarily exposes vulnerable populations of children and adults to unhealthy plumes of exhaust filled with particle pollution. Airborne particles can cause nasal, throat, respiratory, and eye problems, and are particularly harmful to those with asthma. (*Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations, Natural Resources Canada, 2007*).



Photo: Madame Furie

Children are more vulnerable to the impacts of vehicle pollution than other populations:

- Their lungs are still in the development phase.
- They breathe, on average, 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults.
- They are closer to the ground; therefore, closer to tailpipes.

The World Health Organization found that particle pollution and ground level ozone aggravated asthma in children and contributed to an increased risk of respiratory tract infections as well.

For additional information, please contact education@earthday.net, or visit our website at: www.earthday.net/noidling.

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4 STEP NO IDLING CAMPAIGN

- 1 Review enclosed No Idling Policy draft template.
- 2 Present proposed district-wide No Idling policy/directive to school board for approval and adoption
- 3 Provide toolkit information to principals for school implementation. Templates for materials and signage for district-wide campaign implementation available on www.earthday.net/noidling at no cost.
- 4 Success of the campaign will be determined by:
 - Adoption of a No Idling district policy/directive
 - Total number of schools with a No Idling zone/campaign
 - Policy/directive and school data submitted to education@earthday.net

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Draft School Board Policy to Limit Vehicle Idling

School Districts are encouraged to revise this policy as appropriate to meet their specific needs.

Applicability: This policy applies to all public and private vehicles at school facilities and other school destinations.

Purpose: This policy seeks to reduce student and driver exposure to vehicle exhaust by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses and other vehicles to improve the health of students and others on school campuses.

Rationale: The exhaust from idling school buses and private vehicles poses an unnecessary health risk for children, drivers, and the community at large. Compounded with the health risks, idling wastes fuel and impairs air quality.

Idling Control Measures:

1. When school bus drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas on school grounds to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible. The school bus should not be re-started until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the loading zone.
2. Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
3. In colder weather where warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a minimum and occur outside the school zone. The 'warmed bus' is to enter the school zone as close to pick-up time as possible to maintain warmth and then shut down. Schools are directed to provide a space inside the school where early bus drivers can wait.
4. "No Idling Zone" signage should be posted to alert bus drivers, parents, and vendors that engines should be turned off when a vehicle is waiting or parked.

Exemptions: The requirement that school bus driver must turn off the bus and must refrain from idling does not apply for the period or periods during which idling is necessary under the following circumstances:

Safety of Children and Emergencies:

- A) Use of lift equipment during loading or unloading of children with special needs requiring lift.
- B) Use of heater or air conditioner of bus during unloading, loading, or transport of children with exceptional or special needs requiring this.
- C) For other traffic, safety, or emergency situations.