

The Board of Education, School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky), is committed to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling as a means of reducing air pollution and fuel expense.

This policy applies to all staff operating vehicles, equipment, and school buses owned, leased or contracted by School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky).

## **1.0 Definitions**

### **1.1 Idling**

Idling means the operation of vehicles or equipment while they are not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the operation of the vehicle or equipment.

### **1.2 Fuels**

For the purpose of this policy this includes all vehicles or equipment that run on fossil fuels which includes gasoline, diesel, propane, hydrogen and natural gas.

### **1.3 Vehicles**

For the purpose of this policy, vehicles or equipment refers to cars, light trucks, vans, heavy trucks, snow equipment, school buses, loaders, backhoes and any other equipment operated by staff that utilizes fossil fuels.

## **2.0 Procedures**

### **2.1 Manufacturer's Guidelines (Recommendations)**

Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for idling unless otherwise advised by the Operations Department.

### **2.2 Initial Warm-Up**

#### **2.2.1 Gasoline and Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

Idle times up to 3 (three) minutes (during extreme winter conditions) are allowed for vehicles during their initial shift warm up and at subsequent times when the vehicle is being restarted after a prolonged period of shut down that results in vehicle conditions similar to those prior to initial shift warm up.

#### **2.2.2 Diesel Fueled Vehicles/Equipment**

Idle times up to 3 (three) minutes are allowed for diesel fueled vehicles/equipment during their initial shift warm up, and at subsequent times when the vehicle/equipment conditions similar to those prior to initial shift warm up.

### **2.3 Operation of Equipment at School Sites**

#### **2.3.1 Gasoline and Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

No operator shall idle the engine of an unleaded gasoline fueled vehicle in excess of 10 seconds if the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time. Operators making multiple or

frequent stops that require their vehicle to be stationary for time periods of several minutes may idle up to 1 minute in such circumstances.

2.3.2 Diesel Fueled Vehicles/Equipment

No operator shall idle the engine of a diesel-fueled vehicle in excess of 1 minute if the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time. Diesel fueled vehicles/equipment should only be turned off after enough time has passed to allow the proper circulation and cooling of the engine oil, coolant, and turbochargers, not to exceed 3 minutes.

2.3.3 When engines must be left running for any reason, the operator must remain with the vehicle.

### 3.0 Exceptions

Operators of vehicles must use their own discretion in certain situations. However, the requirement that an operator of vehicles must turn off vehicles and refrain from idling does not apply for the period or periods during which idling is necessary under the following circumstances:

- 3.1 While vehicles are assisting in an emergency activity.
- 3.2 Where engine power is necessary for an associated power need such as, but not limited to, electric power, compressed air and various power take-off devices such as auxiliary hydraulics.
- 3.3 Vehicles may idle for the purpose of defogging, defrosting or deicing windows. Idling must end when fog, frost, or ice conditions have been adequately cleared. When window ice or frost conditions are present, attempts to remove snow, ice or frost from the windows with a scraper must be attempted before idling.
- 3.4 During the winter season with below zero temperatures and/or blizzard conditions and during summer periods of extreme heat, extended idling periods may be necessary for the well being of the operator and passengers.
- 3.5 This policy does not apply to vehicles being serviced or inspected.
- 3.6 Where safety may be compromised by shutting down the engine, vehicle/equipment may idle at the discretion of the operator.