



Why Bus Idling is Harmful

- Buses produce diesel exhaust every time they idle (sit with the engine running). This releases **high levels of toxic particulate matter** that travels to our lungs.
- The EPA finds **diesel exhaust among the most dangerous forms of air pollution**. Children, as well as people with existing heart and lung conditions, are especially vulnerable. Those routinely exposed to diesel exhaust face higher risks of stroke, cancer, asthma, heart attacks, and other chronic illnesses.
- **Particulate matter from diesel exhaust depletes the soil of vital nutrients and contributes to acid rain.** In addition, it absorbs other toxins and heavy metals in the air.
- Idling puts a great stress on bus engines as well. Every hour of idling equates to 120 miles of use. **Over 800 millions gallons of fuel are wasted every year** due to idling.
- Children are especially vulnerable to diesel pollution. Children's lungs, still developing, are larger in comparison to adults' lungs, so **children inhale 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults.**

Idle Free Zones

The Pennsylvania Diesel Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act forbids school buses to idle more than **5 minutes** in any one hour period.

If you see a violation, call your local law enforcement agency or the PA Department of Environment Protection's toll-free Citizen Complaint Line at [1-866-255-5158](tel:1-866-255-5158).

What You Can Do:

- Educate school bus drivers on the 2009 Anti-Idling Law. Contact Healthy Schools PA for more information.
- Review the manner in which school buses line up for drop-off and pick-up. Consider side by side placement, rather than front to back to reduce diesel fume exposure.
- Work with administration to make certain bus zones are not near outdoor air intakes.
- Install "Idle-Free Bus" window decals on your fleet (available for FREE from Healthy Schools PA)
- Ask administration to install "idle-free zone" signage at student drop-off and pick-up locations.
- To find out more about creating an effective idle reduction policy visit the Environmental Protection Agency's National Idle Reduction Campaign:

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/antiidling.htm>



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