



School Bus Idling Administrative Procedure 9.40

9.0 Education for Sustainability

Board Governance Policy Cross Reference: 2, 3, 5, 7, 16

Legal Reference:

Date Adopted: April 2011

Date Amended: January 2015, November 2024

Evergreen School Division is committed to a sustainable future for our youth, our communities and our world. To formalize this commitment, the Board of Trustees have adopted a policy entitled Education for Sustainability.

Vision for Education for Sustainability

Students will become informed and responsible decision-makers, playing active roles as citizens of Canada and the world, and will contribute to social, environmental, and economic well-being and an equitable quality of life for all, now and in the future.

This administrative procedure is one in a series of procedures that will allow us to achieve the goals as outlined in our policy. The goals targeted by this administrative procedure are as follows:

1. To implement strategies to ensure that operations, activities, programs and facilities are sustainable without compromising the ability of present and future generations to fulfill their own goals.
2. To implement a systemic approach to Education for Sustainability.
3. To equip students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and life practices that will contribute to a sustainable future.
4. To align human resources policies, practices and development plans with sustainability principles.
5. To apply sustainability principles to the design, construction and renewal of division buildings and all aspects of facility management, procurement, resource use and transportation.
6. To offer services and carry on its activities in such a way as to:
 - a. reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and the wastes generated from them;
 - b. use all renewable materials and energy resources at rates equal to, or lower than, their natural rates of deposition, reformation or reproduction in the ecosphere;
 - c. reduce and eventually eliminate the toxicity of these operations to the productivity and diversity of the ecosphere.
7. To encourage the development and adoption by students and staff of modes of transportation that progressively reduce consumption of non-renewable resources, renewable resources, and energy resources, and that eliminate discharges of toxic substances and wastes to the ecosphere.
8. To integrate environmental, social and economic considerations in all aspects of management decision-making.

9. To establish decision-making processes, policies and procedures for sustainability which encourage participation by all those affected by the decisions made.
10. To continuously improve the school division's Education for Sustainability plan.
11. To integrate Education for Sustainability curriculum outcomes into the division's curriculum.
12. To meaningfully encourage and engage all education stakeholders – trustees, administration, staff, students and community to contribute to the implementation of this policy.

Applicability:

This administrative procedure applies to the operation of every division-owned and/or contracted school bus.

Rationale:

Diesel exhaust from idling school buses can accumulate in and around the bus and pose a health risk to children, drivers and the community at large. Excessive exposure to diesel exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems. Diesel exhaust also exacerbates asthma and existing allergies, and long-term exposure is thought to increase the risk of lung cancer. Idling buses also wastes fuel and produces unnecessary environmental pollution.

Procedures:

1. When school bus drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions. The school bus should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as:
 - Extreme weather conditions
 - Idling in traffic
2. At school bus depots or where the bus may be resting in between assignments, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up and throughout the day to what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally 3-5 minutes) in all but the coldest weather.
3. Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
4. In colder weather, schools are directed to provide a space inside the school where bus drivers who arrive early can wait.
5. In colder weather, if the warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a very 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.

All drivers shall receive a copy of this bulletin at the beginning of every school year.