



## Northeast Clean School Bus Initiative



# *Anti-Idling Policy Guidelines and Recommendations*

An anti-idling policy or ordinance for your school zones is highly recommended as a foundation from which to build on anti-idling outreach campaign. It will also give you ground for enforcement. However, it should be emphasized that this is just one piece to the anti-idling puzzle, and not a cure-all for school zone idling. Nonetheless, with appropriate policy language, media attention, and outreach to ensure it is understood and enforced, an anti-idling policy can be the launching point for significant reductions of emissions in your school zone.

There are many existing examples of anti-idling policies, ordinances, and mandates at both the local and state level to draw inspiration from as you compose your own anti-idling policy. Whichever template you choose to draw upon most, or if you choose to create your own policy, be sure to include the following key provisions to develop a successful policy tool.

**Time Limits to Idling and Warming Up** – A strong anti-idling policy clearly identifies maximum allowed time limits for idling and warming up:

- Drivers should turn off their engines as soon as they reach their destination.
- Warm-up time should be very limited and dictated by manufacturer's recommendations.

**Where and To Whom the Policy Applies** – All policies should clearly articulate the vehicles/drivers covered by the policy as well as where the policy applies:

- Parent drivers, bus drivers, delivery trucks, drivers from visiting schools for sports events, etc. (Note: Idling time limits may vary for buses and other heavy vehicles and passenger vehicles).
- On all school property.

**Exceptions to the Rule** – All exceptions to the rules above should be laid out so that the policy is not revoked and made irrelevant on account of any unanticipated circumstances:

- Safety and operational necessities (flashing lights, etc.).
- Extreme temperature events.

As part of the toolkit, you'll find two excellent templates from the Asthma Regional Council of New England and the U.S. EPA for crafting an anti-idling policy. Additionally, the anti-idling policies from Hamden, CT, and Brattleboro, VT, serve as examples of real-world implementation. The Hamden policy is an excellent example if you want a brief policy that specifically deals with the direct idling issue. The Brattleboro resolution is a prime example of how to explicitly integrate your anti-idling work into your over-arching Clean School Bus and climate protection goals.

You may wish to reference your state's anti-idling policy if it exists. For a recently updated list of state regulations and many local regulations with links to their language, see the [American Transportation Research Institute's Compendium of Idling Regulations](#).