

Don't Be Idle: Improve Our Air and Save Money, Too

Idling school buses pollute the air that children breathe. Pollutants can accumulate inside the bus and outdoors near the bus. Exhaust from idling engines may also be sucked into the building ventilation systems, affecting air quality inside schools. Drivers may occasionally need to let their engines idle briefly to warm the engine or run equipment, such as defrosters, but most idling is not necessary. Eliminating unnecessary idling is a simple, cost-effective way to help reduce children's exposure to air pollution.

Reduce Idling Time—The Savings Add Up!

If...

A school bus fleet has 50 buses

A school bus fleet reduces idling time by 30 minutes per bus per day

A typical school bus uses a half gallon of diesel fuel per hour of idling

Diesel fuel costs \$2.00 per gallon

Then...

What are the annual savings?

Fuel Cost = 50 buses x 0.5 hours/day x 0.5 gallons of fuel/hour x \$2.00 per gallon x 180 days

Savings = 2,250 gallons of diesel fuel and \$4,500



Many school districts and local governments have developed initiatives to reduce school bus idling. In New England, for example, several government agencies have enacted idle time regulations, created educational materials for bus drivers, and developed idling policy guidelines.

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Source: EPA Clean School Bus USA, "Tomorrow's Buses for Today's Children"