



## “Clean Air Zones”

### Sample Engine Idling Reduction Guidelines for Schools (as recommended by the NH Department of Environmental Services)

**Purpose:** Motor vehicles, both diesel and gasoline, are the leading source of air pollution in New Hampshire. Air pollution from vehicle exhaust has been linked to asthma and lung cancer, and children are more susceptible to exhaust pollution because their lungs are still developing and they breathe at a faster rate than adults. In order to protect the health and well being of our students and the entire school community, *(insert School name)* has adopted Engine Idling Reduction Guidelines. These Guidelines are intended to protect the health of students, teachers, parents, school bus drivers and all who enter the school yard from exposure to vehicle exhaust. In addition, these Guidelines will help drivers save money by decreasing fuel consumptions and reducing wear and tear on engines. The Guidelines are also intended to ensure compliance with New Hampshire State regulations establishing limits on idling time.

#### **Guidelines:**

All persons operating vehicles in and around *(insert school name)* should adhere to the following guidelines:

- All drivers should turn off engines when they arrive at school and when they expect to be parked for more than 10 seconds (use common sense!)
- When waiting for students to be picked up, all engines should be shut off.
- When idling is necessary for heating or mechanical purposes, all drivers should limit idling time according to state regulations (Env-A 1100) as follows:

<i>Outside Temperature (Fahrenheit)</i>	<i>Idling Time limit</i>
Above 32°	5 minutes
Between -10° and 32°	15 minutes
Below -10°	no limit

Certain exemptions are provided in the state regulations to allow for the practical application of an idling policy for *(insert school name)*. All bus and car drivers are encouraged to use common sense when applying these Guidelines and the exemptions to specific situations. For example:

- School buses loading or unloading passengers may be required to have flashing lights operating which may necessitate idling of the vehicle.
- Some emergency equipment may be required to remain running at all times.
- Idling may sometimes be necessary to keep windshields free of ice and frost..

*(Insert school name)* is proud to be part of efforts to reduce engine idling. For additional information on idling reduction recommendations, contact *(insert name for contact)* or visit the Dept. of Environmental Services website at [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) and search for Idling.