



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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September 11, 2006

TO: All Superintendents

FROM: Philip Price, Associate Superintendent  
Office of Financial and Business Services

  
  
Derek Graham, Section Chief  
Transportation Services

RE: Policy on Reduced School Bus Idling

Recently the North Carolina General Assembly adopted the School Children's Health Act (House Bill 1502) which addresses many items critical to the health of our students statewide. One of the action items in that legislation is a requirement that each LEA adopt policies and procedures to reduce students' exposure to diesel emissions. You may recall that last year the State Board of Education amended its allotment policy to allocate additional fuel dollars only to those LEAs that had a reduced idling policy in place. As a result of that action, all 115 LEAs adopted a reduced idling policy and are already in compliance with the requirements of the new School Children's Health Act.

The Department of Public Instruction takes this very seriously and the active enforcement of these local policies is critical to our ability to deal with the skyrocketing cost of diesel fuel. It is anticipated that each LEA will be able to save diesel fuel because of the existence of a reduced idling policy. Additional fuel allotments during 2006-2007 will be made to LEAs with the understanding that some savings will be generated and that the policy will be enforced. Instances of reduced idling policies not being observed (whether observed by DPI staff, reported by the general public, etc) may have a negative impact on additional fuel funding.

To ensure compliance, we are recommending that you take the following actions to the extent practicable:

1. Provide waiting areas for school bus drivers indoors to protect them from extreme weather conditions (either hot or cold).
2. Make it publicly known that your LEA has an enforced reduced idling policy and encourage the public to report instances of buses idling on school grounds or longer than 5 minutes during warm-up.
3. Assign staff to observe actual practices to ensure that school bus drivers are following your policy.

Your local board of education is to be commended for adopting this policy and we wholeheartedly support your efforts to make sure that its objectives are realized.

Thanks for all you do to provide safe, efficient and *healthy* student transportation.

PP/DG

OFBS #06-15

## DIVISION OF SCHOOL SUPPORT

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