

CHATHAM-KENT LAMBTON ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL SERVICES

Policy:	Vehicle Idling
Reference:	STS-PO-001-2022
Adopted:	June 9, 2022
Revised:	



Policy Goal:

Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) recognizes its responsibility to assist in minimizing the volume of vehicle emissions released into the environment by school purpose vehicles as much as reasonably possible.

Policy Statement:

CLASS is committed to the promotion of environmental responsibility through operations and contracting practices. To this end, CLASS shall require all contracted service providers to assist in minimizing environmental impacts of their services by limiting vehicle idling for school purpose vehicles performing CLASS routes.

Preamble:

Exhaust from idling school purpose vehicles can accumulate in and around the vehicle and excessive exposure to vehicle exhaust may pose a health risk to both students, school staff and drivers. Excessive idling also wastes fuel, financial resources, and increases carbon emissions.

Policy Guidelines:

- 1) School purpose vehicles shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes idling while parked.
- 2) When drivers arrive at loading and unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible to eliminate idling time and minimize emissions. The school purpose vehicle should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.
- 3) At offsite school purpose vehicle parking locations, limit the engine idling time during early morning warm up to no longer than the length of time

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required to complete the mandatory Pre-Trip Inspection. Afternoon warm up should be limited to the length of time recommended by the vehicle manufacturer (generally 3-5 minutes).

- 4) School purpose vehicles should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities and other events where students are transported off school grounds.
- 5) In cold weather, if the warmth of the vehicle is an issue, idling is to be at a very minimum and occur outside the school property / loading zone. The "warmed" vehicle is to enter the loading area before dismissal time and then be shut down with the ignition placed in the accessory position for radio communications.
- 6) CLASS staff shall avoid idling while on school property. In weather conditions where it cannot be avoided, idling time be limited to no more than five (5) minutes idling while parked on school property.
- 7) Board staff are encouraged to assist in reducing and preventing idling while parked on school property wherever possible.
- 8) The public is encouraged to limit or avoid idling on school property and adjacent to school facilities.
- 9) Certain situations and factors require exceptions to the idling duration guidelines outlined above. Exceptions include conditions that compromise passenger or motoring public safety, including but not limited to:
 - a. Environment Canada extreme cold warnings;
 - b. Situations where condensation is building on the windscreen while the school purpose vehicle is parked;
 - c. Idling in traffic;
 - d. The operation of a wheelchair lift, as the engine needs to run to maintain the hydraulic system; or
 - e. Any other situations that would reasonably prevent turning off the vehicle engine.