

Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	Idling of Vehicles	Policy #3216C
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2 It is the Policy of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School district that, subject to
3 exceptions developed by the Superintendent in cooperation with the MAU Buildings and
4 Grounds manager, the operators of motor vehicles shall not allow their vehicles to idle while on
5 school grounds.

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7 A. In furtherance of this policy, the Superintendent/Director or his or her designee shall:

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9 1. Post “no idling” signs to notify the operators of motor vehicles on school grounds that
10 idling is illegal under Vermont law; engines must be turned off when a vehicle is waiting
11 or parked, particularly when picking up students.
12 2. If practicable, identify an indoor waiting area for individuals waiting for students.
13 3. Prohibit the use of remote engine starter devices by school staff by including this
14 provision in the staff/faculty handbook.
15 4. Prohibit the idling of delivery vehicles when loading or unloading. Where engine idling is
16 needed to facilitate delivery (such as fuel delivery), delivery shall not take place when
17 school is in session. New or renewed delivery vehicle contracts shall contain no-idling
18 clause.
19 5. Prohibit the idling of vehicles used by visiting schools while waiting for students during
20 school-sponsored events.
21 6. Develop and enforce regulations to allow limited idling as needed for health and safety,
22 such as to operate equipment accommodating students with disabilities or to defrost
23 windshields when required for safe vehicle operation or other situations allowed by state
24 statute.

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26 B. Rationale:

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28 1. “Exhaust from idling vehicles is a common asthma trigger at schools. By limiting exposure
29 to tailpipe emissions, schools can help reduce their students’ risk of developing asthma
30 and decrease the severity of symptoms among students who already have the disease.”¹
31 2. State law limits the idling of school buses while waiting to board or exit students at a
32 school, and prohibits the idling of all motor vehicles to five minutes in any 60-minute
33 period (with exceptions).²
34 3. “Monitoring at schools has shown elevated levels of benzene, formaldehyde,
35 acetaldehyde and other air toxics during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents
36 picking up their children. Children’s lungs are still developing, and when they are
37 exposed to elevated levels of these pollutants, children have an increased risk of
38 developing asthma, respiratory problems and other adverse health effects. Limiting a
39 vehicle’s idling time can dramatically reduce these pollutants and children’s exposure to
40 them.”³

¹ David Grass, PhD; Environmental Health Surveillance Chief, Vermont Department of Health

² 23 V.S.A. §1110 and §1282(f)

³ EPA, Region 8 “Idle-free School”

- 1 **Legal References:**
2 23 V.S.A. §1282(f); Non-Idling of School Buses at schools.
3 Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, Rule 6001.
4 23 V.S.A. § 1110; Prohibited idling of motor vehicles.
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	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	3/9/18	5/14/18	New Policy

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