

MADISON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Idle Free Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Madison Public Schools has a vehicle idling policy at our schools. All persons operating vehicles at the schools should adhere to the following guidelines:

- When waiting for students to be picked up, all engines should be shut off.
- All drivers should turn off engines when they arrive at school and when they expect to be parked for more than 10 seconds.
- If idling is necessary for temperature control, please restrict it to no more than 5 minutes.

We have instituted this policy to reduce the students' exposure to air toxics emitted in the exhaust of idling vehicles.

Idling vehicles contribute to air pollution and emit air toxins, which are pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects. A flyer outlining the importance of idling reduction is included on the next page.

We encourage you to eliminate unnecessary idling not only at our school but anywhere you are waiting in your car or bus and have your engine running for more than 10 seconds. This simple change will improve the air our children breathe, as well as the air quality in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your support!

The Madison Board of Education Administration

Turn Your Key, Be Idle Free!

Idle Free Schools

Why Not Idle?

Car exhaust contains **air toxics**, which are known to cause cancer, respiratory effects, reproductive effects, birth defects or other serious health effects.



Because of their developing lungs and higher breathing rates, **children are more susceptible** to air pollution.

If many vehicles are idling at once, for example in school pick up/drop off areas, a "hot spot" of exhaust pollution can be created.

Monitoring at schools has shown **elevated levels of air toxics** during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents picking up their children.

Idling Facts



The chemicals from exhaust are harmful and can make **asthma** worse.

Most people waste 1-2 entire tankfuls of gas every year by idling.

Ford Motor Company says: "Avoid idling more than 30 seconds because excessive idling can actually **damage your engine.**"

Idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

Manufacturers assure that frequent restarting won't harm an engine.

What can you do?

If you are going to wait more than 10 seconds, turn your vehicle off.

It's as **simple** as that.

Pledge to not idle unnecessarily anywhere, anytime.



Reducing idling at schools can **reduce children's exposure** to toxic vehicle exhaust.

For more information: visit dep.nj.gov/stopthesoot/idling

Turn the Key, Be Idle Free!!