



POLICY 2.24

5-A I recommend that the Board approve development of the proposed **new** Policy 2.24, entitled “School Bus and Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicle Idling Reduction Policy.”

[Contact: Yevola Falana, PX 58312.]

Development

CONSENT ITEM

- This proposed policy addresses the Board’s desire to eliminate the unnecessary idling of district-owned school buses and other heavy-duty diesel engine powered motor vehicles while on school grounds. As such, school buses and heavy-duty diesel engine vehicles shall not idle for more than five (5) consecutive minutes when not in motion, unless otherwise authorized by this policy.
- This proposed policy includes a definitions section and an exemptions section, during which the idling restrictions would not apply. Exemptions are granted for traffic conditions, maintenance of the vehicles, safety or emergency reasons, weather conditions, other conditions such as the need to use a lift, and due to a school’s configuration.
- Limited idling signage, training, bus routing and potential sanctions for failure to comply are included in these guidelines.
- This policy embraces the principles of the National Idle-Reduction Campaign of Clean Bus USA, an initiative sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help communities reduce pollution from school buses.

POLICY 2.24

1 SCHOOL BUS AND HEAVY-DUTY DIESEL VEHICLE IDLING REDUCTION POLICY

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- 3 1. **Purpose.** The School Board acknowledges that school buses are viewed as one
4 of the safest, efficient, and environmentally responsible means to transport
5 students to get to and from school. The School Board further recognizes that idling
6 associated with the operation of school buses and other heavy-duty diesel vehicles
7 emits greenhouse gases and other diesel-related pollutants which may pose a
8 significant threat to air quality and public health; wastes fuel and financial
9 resources; and causes wear and tear on engines. This policy seeks to reduce
10 student and driver exposure to diesel-related pollutants by limiting unnecessary
11 idling of school buses and other heavy-duty diesel vehicles on School Property.
- 12 2. **Applicability.** This policy applies to the operation of every district-owned school
13 bus and other heavy-duty diesel engine powered motor vehicle on school grounds.
- 14 3. **Definitions.** For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall be
15 applicable.
- 16 a. *Heavy-duty diesel engine powered motor vehicle* means a district-owned
17 motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating equal to or greater than 8,500
18 pounds; used on roads for the transportation of passengers or freight; and
19 serves a School District, commercial, or other public/government purpose. For
20 the purposes of this definition, *gross vehicle weight rating* means the weight
21 specified by the manufacturer as the maximum design loaded weight of a
22 single vehicle.
- 23 b. *Idling* means the continuous operation of a school bus or vehicle main engine
24 while the bus or vehicle is stopped.
- 25 c. *Official traffic control devices* mean all signs, signals, markings, and devices,
26 not inconsistent with Chapter 316, Florida Statutes, placed or erected by
27 authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction for the purpose of
28 regulating, warning, or guiding traffic, as defined in §316.003(23), Florida
29 Statutes, as now or hereafter amended.
- 30 d. *Official traffic control signals* mean any device, whether manually, electrically,
31 or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and
32 permitted to proceed, as defined in §316.003(24), Florida Statutes, as now or
33 hereafter amended.
- 34 e. *School bus* is a motor vehicle regularly used for the transportation of
35 prekindergarten disability program and kindergarten through grade 12

36 students of the public schools to and from school or to and from school
37 activities, and owned, operated, rented, contracted, or leased by the School
38 Board, as defined in §1006.25(1), Florida Statutes, as now or hereafter
39 amended.

40 f. School grounds means any school center, facility, including any areas
41 adjacent to school buildings, and used at any time for school related activities,
42 including parking lots, playing fields and driveways, or grounds owned or
43 occupied by the School Board. The definition includes the location of a School
44 District sponsored activity as well as transportation provided by the School
45 District to attend a School District sponsored activity, as an extracurricular
46 activity, field trip and other school-related activities.

47 4. **Policy Statement.** The School Board desires to eliminate the unnecessary idling
48 of district-owned school buses and other heavy-duty diesel engine powered motor
49 vehicles while on school grounds. In this regard, school buses and heavy-duty
50 diesel engine vehicles shall not idle for more than five (5) consecutive minutes
51 when not in motion, unless otherwise authorized by this policy. The following
52 control measures shall apply.

53 a. No school bus driver shall cause or allow the engine of any school bus subject
54 to this policy to idle prior to, during layover between, at the destination of, or at
55 the conclusion of, any school trip or route for more than five (5) consecutive
56 minutes, except under the conditions provided for in section 5 of this policy.

57 b. School buses shall not idle while waiting for students on field trips, events or
58 any trips away from the school center.

59 5. **Exemptions.** The idling restriction as provided in this policy shall not apply for the
60 period or periods during which idling is necessary under the following
61 circumstances:

62 a. Traffic Conditions. Limited idling is necessary while stopped for conditions
63 over which the driver has no control such as:

64 i. for an official traffic control device or signal:

65 ii. in a line of traffic;

66 iii. at a railroad crossing;

67 iv. at a construction zone; or

68 v. at the direction of law enforcement officials.

69 b. Maintenance of Operations. Limited idling is necessary:

- 70 i. To verify or ascertain that the school bus or vehicle is in good working
71 order or safe operating condition and equipped as required by law, and all
72 equipment is in good working order, either as part of the daily vehicle
73 inspection or as needed provided the engine is mandatory for such
74 verification.
- 75 ii. To recharge the battery of a school bus or vehicle; or
- 76 iii. For testing, servicing, repairing or diagnostic purposes.
- 77 c. Safety of Students and Emergencies. Limited idling is necessary to:
- 78 i. Use or operate a lift or other piece of equipment designed to ensure safe
79 loading, unloading, or transport of persons with one or more disabilities;
80 or
- 81 ii. Use an air conditioner or heater of a bus or vehicle during the loading,
82 unloading or transport of children with exceptional/special needs aboard.
- 83 iii. Use of air conditioner or other equipment for safety or health
84 considerations, but not solely for the comfort of the driver.
- 85 iv. Use of bus or vehicle headlights or four-way flasher warning lights for
86 visibility purposes; or
- 87 v. For other traffic, safety or emergency situations.
- 88 d. Weather. Limited idling of a school bus to:
- 89 i. Ten (10) minutes prior to passenger loading if necessary to cool the
90 school bus for passenger comfort.
- 91 ii. If justified by cold outside temperatures, the minimum period of time to
92 heat the bus prior to loading.
- 93 e. Other Conditions. Limited idling is necessary to accomplish work for which
94 the heavy-duty diesel vehicle was designed, other than propulsion or
95 transporting students/passengers, for example:
- 96 i. The operation of a lift or other auxiliary equipment, other than a heater or
97 air conditioner; or
- 98 ii. The collection of solid waste or recyclable material by an entity authorized
99 by contract, license or permit by the School District.
- 100 f. Queuing at a School. Where the physical configuration of a school requires a
101 queue of buses for the sequential discharge or pickup of students, and the

102 queue of buses is actively engaged in the discharge or pickup of students.

103 6. **Responsibilities.**

104 a. Signage. To the extent practicable, the Superintendent or his designee will
105 post "limited idling" signs in loading and unloading areas to alert bus drivers
106 and other heavy duty diesel vehicle drivers on school grounds of this policy, or
107 that engines should be turned off when a bus or vehicle is waiting or parked.
108 This policy shall further be posted at the Transportation Department, including
109 locations where maintenance is performed on school buses or other district-
110 owned heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

111 b. Training. The Transportation Department shall complete an "idling" training
112 session with school bus drivers and other district employees operating heavy-
113 duty diesel engine motor vehicles. All school bus drivers shall be provided
114 with a copy of this policy or equivalent educational materials at the beginning
115 of each school year and at the beginning of their jobs as bus drivers, if they
116 are new employees.

117 c. Bus Routing. When possible, the Transportation Department will revise bus
118 schedules to avoid school bus caravanning and will assign the "cleanest"
119 buses to the longest routes.

120 7. **Sanctions for Violation.** District-employed bus drivers who are known to have
121 engaged in prohibited behavior with regard to excessive idling of school buses or
122 other heavy-duty diesel motor vehicles are subject to disciplinary action. The
123 Director of Transportation shall monitor and enforce compliance with this policy,
124 and any person may report incidents of noncompliance to the Director of
125 Transportation.

126 8. **Administrative Procedures.** The Superintendent or designee is authorized to
127 develop procedures consistent with this policy and amend those procedures from
128 time to time as deemed necessary. Procedures issued by the Superintendent shall
129 be a part of this policy's appendices without further action of the School Board.

130 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.41; 1001.42

131 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 403.031, 403.061

132 FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: Rules 62-285.420; 6A-3.0171

133 HISTORY: __/__/2009

Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 2.24 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date