

The Clean Air Campaign – Clean Air Schools No-Idle Program

The Clean Air Campaign is a 501(c)(3) Georgia nonprofit corporation that works with employers, commuters and schools to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion.

Our efforts and those of our Partners yielded an average reduction of more than 1.2 million vehicle miles driven and 600 tons of air pollution *per day* in metro Atlanta.

Overview of our School Programs: Through our Clean Air Schools program, we work with elementary and middle schools to reduce harmful vehicle emissions around children and instill environmental values in the next generation. Entire school communities are motivated to be part of the solution through action-oriented projects such as:

- No-idling campaigns (“Young Lungs at Work”)
- Our interactive “Better Air BAIR” musical assembly program
- Georgia standards-based air quality lesson plans that were downloaded from our Web site **29,962** times last year

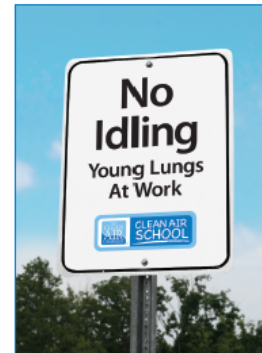
We currently reach approximately 90 schools each year and at least 30,000 students and 2,000 educators.

No-Idle program - focus for 2008-2009 school year: The need for action is clear: excessive idling unnecessarily exposes vulnerable populations of children and adults to unhealthy plumes of exhaust filled with particle pollution. The metro Atlanta region is considered nonattainment for particle pollution and No-Idling programs are seen as a key tool in addressing this pollution source.

Children are more vulnerable to the impacts of vehicle pollution than other populations:

- Their lungs are still in the development phase
- They breathe, on average, 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults
- They are closer to the ground, and therefore, closer to tailpipes

The World Health Organization found that particle pollution and ground level ozone aggravated asthma in children and contributed to an increased risk of respiratory tract infection as well.



The purpose of the Clean Air Schools No-Idle Program is to reduce pollution from idling buses and cars that negatively affects a child’s healthy lung growth and development.

Through proven strategies, we have deployed no-idling solutions in more than 30 area schools on a pilot basis and reduced idling vehicles up to 90 percent. During the 2008-2009 school year, we plan to explore taking the No-Idle Program state-wide.

Through various grants, we can provide turnkey solutions through collateral and educational materials for bus drivers and parent drivers, metal signage for school grounds and even clean air prizes to reward compliant drivers – all at no cost to the school.

For additional information, please contact Susan Bacon, director of education, at 678-244-7724 or SBacon@CleanAirCampaign.com. Susan is a certified teacher with more than 20 years experience in the classroom.

Be Part of The Clean Air Campaign



Four Step No-Idle Program

1

Review enclosed No-Idle Policy draft template

2

Present proposed district-wide No-Idle policy to school board for approval/adoption (include **Why Do It** fact sheet)

3

Provide tool kit information to principals for school implementation. All materials and signage for district-wide program implementation are provided by The Clean Air Campaign at no cost.

4

Success of the program will be determined by:

- Adoption of a No-Idle district policy
- Total number of schools with a No-Idle zone/program
- E-mail policy and school data to Schools@CleanAirCampaign.com

For additional information, contact:

Susan Bacon, Director of Education

678-244-7724 SBacon@CleanAirCampaign.com

Susan is a certified teacher with more than 20 years experience in the classroom.

DRAFT SCHOOL BOARD POLICY TO LIMIT VEHICLE IDLING

School Districts are encouraged to revise this policy as appropriate to meet their specific needs.

Applicability: This policy applies to all public and private vehicles at school facilities and other school destinations.

Purpose: This policy seeks to reduce student and driver exposure to vehicle exhaust by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses and other vehicles to improve the health of students and others on school campuses.

Rationale: The exhaust from idling school buses and private vehicles poses an unnecessary health risk for children, drivers, and the community at large. Compounded with the health risks, idling wastes fuel and impairs air quality.

Idling Control Measures:

- 1) When school bus drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas on school grounds to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible. The school bus should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the loading zone.
- 2) Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
- 3) In colder weather where warmth of the bus is an issue, idling is to be at a minimum and occur outside the school zone. The “warmed bus” is to enter the school zone as close to pick up time as possible to maintain warmth and then shut down. Schools are directed to provide a space inside the school where bus drivers, who are early, can wait.
- 4) “No-idling zone” signs should be posted to alert bus drivers, parents, and vendors that engines should be turned off when a vehicle is waiting or parked.

Exemptions: The requirement that a school bus driver must turn off the bus and must refrain from idling does not apply for the period or periods during which idling is necessary under the following circumstances:

1) **Safety of Children and Emergencies**

(A) Use of lift equipment during loading or unloading of children with special needs requiring use of lift.

(B) Use of heater or an air conditioner of a bus during loading, unloading or transport of children with exceptional/special needs.

(C) For other traffic, safety, or emergency situations.