



Information on the **free** signs may be obtained by contacting:

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west virginia department of environmental protection

A graphic for an 'IDLE FREE ZONE' sign, identical to the one on the left page. It features the words 'IDLE FREE' in large, bold, red capital letters on a white background, and 'ZONE' in white capital letters on a black background, all within a yellow border and black outline.

**STUDENTS**  
*Breathe*  
**HERE**

*Please Turn Your Engine Off While You Wait.*

WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4336

# “Idle Free Zone” Signs

School transportation and administration personnel play an important role in providing a safe environment for West Virginia’s students each year. Recent studies have identified diesel engine fumes from school buses as a possible health hazard to children and school employees. We commend you for including a section in the West Virginia Board of Education (BOE) Policy 4336 that addresses the idling of school buses.

Diesel fumes from idling school buses can be harmful when loading students onto buses, particularly when several buses are lined up and running all at once. Young lungs are particularly susceptible, as they are not completely developed. Reducing exhaust emissions from all motor vehicle sources can only make the air around the school healthier for everyone to breathe.

WV BOE Policy 4336 was written to minimize idling and offer a smart, effective and immediate way to reduce diesel emission at little or no cost.

## Why limit idling?

- \*Contrary to popular belief, idling actually does more damage to an engine than starting and stopping.
- \*Idling causes additional wear on an engine’s internal parts and can increase maintenance costs and shorten the life of the engine.
- \*Today’s bus engines require only three to five minutes of warm-up time, even in cold weather.
- \* Winter blends of fuel and fuel additives better withstand colder temperatures and have solved gelling problems.

## Benefits of developing an idle reduction plan for all vehicle traffic include:

- \***Encourages compliance with BOE’s policy 4336.**
- \***Protects indoor health** - Exhaust from buses, passenger vehicles and delivery trucks can enter school buildings through air intakes, doors and open windows.
- \***Saves money in fuel costs** - One hour of idling burns approximately 1/2 gallon of fuel.
- \***Reduces wear on the bus engines** - A bus idling for one hour a day during the school year adds the equivalent of 1,260 miles of wear on the engine.
- \***Saves the air** - Diesel engine exhaust contains 40 hazardous air pollutants and small particles that combine with sunlight to cause haze, commonly known as smog.

To assist in the effort to reduce idling, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would like to help promote an “Idle Free Zone” for school buses and other vehicle traffic by providing signs at **no cost** to be posted around school campuses, particularly in bus drop areas. The sign design on the front cover is an example of what will be provided to your school for display.

We welcome your support and participation in the “Idle Free Zone” sign project for schools in your county. Please share this information with your county superintendents, school principals, transportation directors, and facility managers.

Go to [www.dep.wv.gov/daq/](http://www.dep.wv.gov/daq/),  
choose the *Diesel Exhaust Emissions* link!