

**Tools for Schools**  
**Did You Know...?**  
**February 2020**  
***By JoAnn Inserra Duncan***

Did you know...that there is a no idle law for school buses and delivery trucks and a no idle policy in the district for cars dropping off and picking up students?

The law states that the operator of any school bus shall not operate the engine for more than **three consecutive minutes** when the school bus is not in motion except:

1. When the school bus is forced to remain motionless because of traffic or mechanical difficulties over which the operator has no control
2. When the outdoor temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit
3. When it is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for students with special needs
4. When the operator is in the process of receiving or discharging passengers on a public road or public highway
5. Buses should not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
6. All service delivery vehicles must turn off the engines while making deliveries to school buildings. There are no idle signs at every loading dock.

When cars, buses or trucks idle near school buildings, the fumes can enter the school through open windows, doors, and the outdoor air intakes of the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. This can adversely affect the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in these areas.

Please be mindful of this policy and shut your engines off when dropping off or picking up your child. If you have any concerns about this you can contact a TFS team member at your school. If it is primarily a bus issue, you can contact the district Transportation Coordinator at 203-341-1754.