



## Sample “No-Idle” Articles for Parents/School Newsletters

### Sample 1.

#### Protecting Students’ Health by Protecting Them from Vehicle Exhaust

In 2005, North Carolina adopted a new state law to protect the health and safety of children at school from harmful diesel emissions. This law calls for school systems in NC to develop and implement a policy to reduce the unnecessary idling of school buses near school buildings, and on school grounds.

#### Why is idling of vehicles a problem?

- **Vehicle exhaust is hazardous to human health, especially children’s.** Studies have linked pollution from vehicles to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma and allergies. Children breathe more rapidly and inhale more pollutants per pound of body weight than adults, and their lungs are still developing. A study by Yale University found that students on school buses are exposed to 5 to 15 times the levels of particulate pollution. Levels are especially high when buses idle and line up “nose-to-tail”. Idling of cars also increases the levels of pollution near schools. Please turn off your engine while waiting in the school carpool line to pick up your children.
- **Idling wastes resources and damages the environment.** Burning fuel needlessly costs money and contributes to air pollution problems that harm our children, plants and animals.
- **Idling vehicles can be easily stolen or can cause damage if accidentally engaged.**
- **Today’s cars and buses do not need to be warmed up, except in extremely cold conditions (below 0° F).** In fact, for modern diesel engines idling can actually be harder on the engine than driving down the road.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has taken the following steps to protect our students from vehicle exhaust and comply with the law:

- Implemented a no-idling policy for all CMS vehicles at every school building.
- Posted two "Turn Off Your Engine: Kids Breathe Here" signs and alerted bus drivers, parents and administrators that engines should be turned off when a vehicle is waiting, or parked.

**Parents and guardians are essential to ensuring the protection of children’s health from vehicle exhaust. We appreciate your support in following our new no idling policy when visiting our school.**

A campaign sponsored by Clean Air Carolina



[www.cleanaircarolina.org](http://www.cleanaircarolina.org)

## **Sample 2.**

### **Turn Off Your Engine – Kids Breathe Here**

Have you ever considered all the pollution that makes its way to the playground while we sit in carpool with our cars idling? And the buses – how much exhaust is being created as they sit waiting for the kids to load?

Vehicle exhaust is hazardous to human health, especially children. Studies have linked pollution from vehicles to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma and allergies. Idling wastes resources and damages the environment. Burning fuel needlessly costs you money and contributes to Charlotte’s air pollution problems.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has an idle-reduction policy for school buses. We are encouraging parents in the carpool lane to reduce their idling as well. Please do not run your engine while waiting for students to be dismissed from school. Limit your idling to the time when the line is actually moving.

Please do your part to clear the air for our kids and “turn your engine off—kids breathe here!”