

St. Monica School Idle-Free Policy

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

Rationale: Exhaust from idling vehicles can accumulate in and around the vehicle and pose a health risk to children, drivers and the community at large. Automobile exhaust leads to ground-level ozone formation, acid rain, and other forms of air pollution. Idling vehicles also waste fuel and financial resources. Exposure to exhaust can cause lung damage, respiratory problems and exacerbate asthma and existing allergies; long-term exposure is thought to increase the risk of lung cancer. Children, pound for pound, inhale more air than adults, so the effect of air pollution on them is more significant. Children's lungs are still developing, and when they are exposed to elevated levels of these pollutants, children have an increased risk of developing asthma, respiratory problems and other adverse health effects. Limiting a vehicle's idling time can dramatically reduce these pollutants and children's exposure to them.

Guidance:

1. Idle-free signs will be posted at the entrances to both the north and east lot pick-up lines
2. All drivers should turn off engines when they arrive at school and when they expect to be parked for more than 10 seconds.
3. If idling is necessary for temperature control, please restrict it to no more than 5 minutes. All cars in the pick-up lines must be turned off while students are entering their vehicles. They can be restarted once the dismissal lines are ready to move.