IDLING OF SCHOOL BUSES AND PRIVATE VEHICLES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Bethlehem Central School District (the District) promotes safe schools and safe transportation. In a continuing effort to provide a safe environment for our District students, staff, and residents, and to be in compliance with federal and state regulations as they pertain to school bus idling, the following will be in effect:

1. All school buses owned and hired by the Bethlehem Central School District (the District) shall turn off their engines when students are loading or discharging, or awaiting loading or discharging, at all schools within the District or at any school or other location to which Bethlehem students are transported. When arriving at a school location, all buses must shut off their engines as soon as practical, especially if buses must wait with students on board before they disembark.

2. When necessary for heating and mechanical purposes, when outside temperatures are at 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below, idling time may be increased up to the limits allowed by law.

3. This policy does not apply when buses are transporting students on a bus route.

Privately owned passenger vehicles, including cars, minivans, pickup trucks, and SUVs, may idle for up to thirty seconds while on school grounds to drop off or pick up students.

The District shall post the policy at the District Transportation Department and Bus Garage, as well as post “no-idling” signs at each school. The District shall otherwise publish this policy at its discretion, including in any mailing to the students and families in the District or in the newspaper.

Adoption date: January 19, 2005
Revised date: February 25, 2020