



B² (Breathe Better) Program Guidelines

1. Arrange a meeting with a B² representative, you and your principal will set goals and a timeline for the program
2. Inform each school family about the program by email, flyer, newsletter, and/or phone.
3. Build excitement in the students through a description of what they will learn. Provide each with a "Spare the Air" bookmark.
4. Arrange for the B² representative to meet with the bus drivers for your school. Lunch or snacks can be provided to the bus drivers as they are recruited to participate in the program. Bus drivers will be given a promotional item so they can promote the program on a daily basis.
5. A B² representative will help the school reward the bus drivers at different times during the school year for their continued efforts in promoting the program.
6. Recruit and educate students on their responsibilities as the Clean Air Patrol which include:
 - A 5 question survey for students to ask parents in afternoon pickup line at the start of the program.
 - Once a month, count the number of idling and non-idling cars in the afternoon pickup line.
 - Students will receive special promotional and reward items for their participation.
 - We will provide postcard-sized flyers and other small promotional items (depending on availability) to help inform parents.
 - Small packages of M&M's will be given to parents in car line that are not idling as monthly checks.
7. Establish an official "no idling" policy at your school and place it the student/parent handbook and on the school's website. You may use our templates and modify.

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Sample: Voluntary Anti-Idling Policy for Cars

Refer to the following guidelines to establish a voluntary anti-idling policy for carpoolers. Consider including the policy in the student/parent handbook and on the school Web site.

Policy Template:

(School's name) has established a voluntary "anti-idling" policy.

We ask that drivers turn off their engines while waiting in their cars to pick up students or adults, weather permitting.

We hope to reduce respiratory problems for our students and staff and improve the air quality around our school.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort!

Sample: Mandatory Anti-Idling Policy for School Buses

Refer to the following guidelines to establish a mandatory anti-idling policy for school buses in your school or district. Consider including the policy in the student/parent handbook and on the school Web site.

Anti-Idling Guidelines/Policy Template:

(School / district name) has established a mandatory "anti-idling" policy for school buses.

When a school bus is waiting for students to load or unload, the bus engine should be turned off to eliminate idling time and reduce harmful emissions.

The school bus should not be restarted until the driver is ready to depart. It is not necessary to warm up the engine longer than three to four minutes. If this is a problem because of cold weather or the age of the bus, a block heater can be used to help warm the engine (as advised by the Environmental Protection Agency).

Please follow all other state anti- idling laws and guidelines.

We hope to reduce respiratory problems for our students and staff and improve the air quality around our school.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort!

Sample: B² School Newsletter Article

_____ will be participating in an anti-idling program called Breathe Better (B2) starting this school year _____. B2 is a voluntary anti-idling program which will help reduce the amount of air pollution your children are exposed to from school buses and vehicles while on school grounds. To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards for several outdoor air pollutants, including particulate matter (PM) and ground-level ozone. These two pollutants are of particular concern in South Carolina and both are the focus of B2.

Many local factors can contribute to PM and the formation of ground-level ozone, like emissions from vehicles and industry, wood burning and lawn maintenance. Our school will be addressing several factors that can help reduce some of these emissions. These actions may include reduction of idling vehicles in the school parking lot and carpool lane, tree planting to help filter airborne PM and landscaping to reduce the mowing area on the school grounds, thereby reducing emissions from mowers. We will also be working with our school bus drivers to implement a similar anti-idling strategy while buses are on the school grounds.

We hope that you, as a parent, will support this effort by turning off your vehicle's engine during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We believe that this action will have a positive impact on your child's health. Children are at a higher risk from air pollution exposure because they often spend a large part of their time playing outdoors, and they breathe more than adults do. Children are also more likely to have asthma, which may be aggravated by certain air pollutants. Asthma in children is one the most common causes of school absences.

Look for the new voluntary anti-idling policy in the student/parent handbook and for the new anti-idling signs around the school campus. Reducing idling should help create a better learning environment for everyone!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sample: Data Collection Table

Total Vehicle Count							
		1 st Date		2 nd Date		Difference	
		# Vehicles	% Idling	# Vehicles	% Idling	# Vehicles	% Difference
	In Loop	92		100		+8	
	Idling	34	37%	20	20%	-14	-17%

**Sample:
“No Idling” Sign**

