NHSTA
New Hampshire School Transportation Association
76 South State Street, Concord, NH 03301-3520
Tel.: (603) 228-1231 Fax: (603) 228-2118 E-mail: assnrhc@aol.com

January 2002

Dear NHSTA Member:

The NHSTA Board of Directors has agreed to partner with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) in an effort to reduce air pollution from motor vehicles and to protect school children and bus drivers from excessive exposure to exhaust emissions. As part of this effort, we are initiating a campaign to encourage you to implement policies and practices within your fleet to reduce school bus engine idling whenever practical.

Vehicle exhaust has health implications for everyone, but children are especially susceptible because their respiratory systems are not fully developed. Excessive exposure to exhaust, especially diesel exhaust, can cause lung damage, respiratory problems, and even premature death. By limiting the amount of time that school buses remain idling, school bus drivers can help protect the health of our children and improve air quality without adding any additional costs. In fact, by limiting unnecessary idling, NHSTA members will even save money by minimizing consumption and reducing wear and tear on engines!

New Hampshire regulations (Env-A 1101, enclosed) establish a limit on the amount of time that motor vehicles, including diesel-powered engines, are permitted to idle. School bus drivers can make a significant impact on the health of their passengers and their own health by abiding by the regulations, and by implementing practices that go beyond the regulations to further minimize school bus idling. Enclosed is a sample policy for your fleet restricting idling time consistent with the regulations. NHSTA members could voluntarily assist this effort by displaying and by adopting a policy and distributing it to your school bus drivers.

NHSTA and NHDES are pleased to be working together to protect public health and reduce emissions. I sincerely hope that you will actively participate in this initiative to limit school bus idling by implementing a fleet policy as soon as practical with all your drivers. NHSTA and DES will be following-up in the future with additional information on activities to publicize this effort and ways we can help you work with your drivers to encourage their full participation.

If you have any questions, please contact Dick Clough at 228-1231 or me at 744-3278.

Sincerely,

Phil Dion

Phil Dion, President
Fleet Manager, First Student, Inc., Bristol

Enclosures