

## **Improving the Air Quality at our Schools**

The RRPS School Board has approved of a district-wide No Idling Procedure that went into effect on April 22, 2009. RRPS joins school districts, municipalities, university and college campuses nationwide to improve the air quality in our schools' proximate vicinities. In addition, the RRPS No-Idling Procedure has the benefit of lowering fuel costs for our citizens and reducing the carbon footprint connected with our schools' facilities.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS PROCEDURE!**

Scroll to page 2 to read the details about this decision....



## Rio Rancho Public Schools Vehicle No-Idling Procedure An Energy<sup>3</sup> Green Cube Initiative

- Effective Date:** 22 April 2009: Approved by Facilities, Student Services, Transportation Depts. & RRPS School Board
- Applicability:** This procedure applies to all RRPS buses and maintenance vehicles, visiting (including service delivery) and student family vehicles at all school campuses and offices.
- Rationale:** Unnecessary idling poses a risk to people in the vicinity and to the environment. Exhaust from vehicle engines contributes to human health problems, including lung damage and asthma. Automobile exhaust leads to tropospheric ozone formation, acid rain, and other forms of air pollution. It also releases greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, a major contributor to global climate change.
- Purpose:** Eliminate unnecessary idling of vehicles in all areas of all school vicinities and improve the air quality for our school communities.
- Guidance:**
1. When drivers arrive at loading or unloading zones to pick up or drop off passengers, they shall turn off their vehicles as soon as possible to reduce idling and harmful emissions. Vehicles shall not be restarted until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up or drop-off area. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as extreme weather.
  2. Buses shall not idle while waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities, or other events where students are transported off or on school grounds.
  3. Engines of all service delivery vehicles shall be turned off while making deliveries to school buildings and district offices.
  4. Visitors to our school campuses, while waiting at pick-up zones or in parking spots and in line on adjacent streets, shall turn off their vehicles as soon as possible to eliminate idling and reduce harmful emissions.
  5. Copies of this procedure shall be available online for students, employees and for off-campus drivers and will be distributed as appropriate and feasible.
  6. Where appropriate, signage shall be used to inform drivers of the district-wide school campus no-idling procedure.