

## **CONSERVATION OF FUEL**

It is extremely important that we maximize fuel conservation. As fuel costs continue to rise and the need to conserve fuel as a nation, everyone must be willing to do what is necessary to help with fuel conservation. As employees driving for one of the largest school systems in the country, everListed below are some measures that will help us conserve fuel and reduce fuel consumption to improve efficiency and save money.

1. Eliminate all unnecessary idling by school buses so that idling time is minimized in all aspects of school bus operations. (A typical school bus engine burns about half a gallon of fuel per hour while idling.) When school bus drivers arrive at school or destination loading or unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their buses as soon as possible to eliminate idling time. The school bus should not be restarted until it is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as:
  - a. Extreme weather conditions
  - b. Traffic conditions
  - c. Necessary for auxiliary equipment installed on vehicle
  - d. To bring vehicle up to manufacturer's recommended operating temperature
  - e. When necessary to accomplish the intended use of the vehicle
2. If equipped, utilize the Webasto timer device and auxiliary heater for engine warm-up. (See your Driver Trainer for instructions on timer and heater use.)
3. At school bus lots or depots, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up to the time it takes to do your pre-trip safety inspection (circle check) and what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally 3-5 minutes) in all but the coldest weather at no more than 1200 to 1500 RPM.
4. Long idling periods will not accelerate the warm-up period for diesel buses. The engine may be warm, but the interior of the bus will only warm up during operation.
5. School buses should not idle waiting for students during field trips, extracurricular activities or other events where students are transported off school grounds.
6. In colder weather, one bus should be designated where all drivers can congregate prior to dismissal.
7. Optimize bus routing and scheduling for peak efficiency and do not deviate from your assigned route except in cases of emergency or as directed by the supervisory staff.

## **CONSERVATION OF FUEL (cont)**

8. Follow your route sheets and utilize maps to keep from getting lost on unfamiliar

- trips. Getting lost results in additional driving which wastes time and fuel.
9. Utilize the smaller conventional bus when feasible or optimize seating capacity if a larger bus is required.
  10. Obey the posted speed limits.
  11. Stop aggressive driving. You can improve your fuel mileage by avoiding “jackrabbit” starts and stops by anticipating traffic conditions and driving gently. Rapid acceleration wastes fuel. Maintain a safe steady speed.
  12. Maintain school bus preventative maintenance programs. (Keep engines tuned and replace the air filter when necessary.)
  13. Report any and all defects requiring corrective action to the Central Garage staff with a “Drivers Request for Repair Form” immediately.
  14. Keep tires properly inflated and maintain front end alignment (Toe-in)
  15. Don’t top off the fuel tank. In warm weather, fuel expansion can cause an overflow or spillage.

These fuel conservation measures are easily obtainable if we each do our part in an effort to conserve fuel and save money, I am certain all will understand and fully cooperate.