



# School Transportation Director

## Conserving Fuel: Driving practices that can help school bus drivers to do their part

### Stopping & Starting

- Keep foot off the accelerator when the bus is approaching a stop or is stopped and off brakes when in motion.
- Reduce braking by anticipating stops. Never ride the brake.
- Maintain a steady, soft foot on the gas pedal--don't pump the gas pedal.
- Accelerate smoothly from a stop and when changing speeds.
- Watch traffic far ahead so you can plan traffic moves early; use the brakes sparingly.
- At intersections on a hill use the brake instead of the clutch to hold position.
- When starting uphill use the brakes to prevent rolling backwards.
- Don't start the engine until everyone is ready to go; avoid jackrabbit starts.
- Avoid unauthorized courtesy stops.

### Ignition

- Minimize or eliminate engine warm-up time.
- Drive slowly during engine warm-up periods, i.e.: drive slowly the first few miles to warm up vehicle.
- Don't "rev up" the engine before turning off the ignition.
- Turn off all power consuming systems before turning off the ignition.

- Shut off the engine if the vehicle is going to be stopped for more than one minute.

### Driving Speeds

- Observe the speed limit. Don't speed.
- Drive at a steady speed to avoid full throttle operation.
- Merge smoothly and time your vehicle approaches.
- Adjust driving methods to road conditions.
- Drive slowly back to bus garage. Turn corners slowly, drive next to center line on curves.
- Reduce speed limit to as low as practical.

### More Ideas

- Avoid fuel spillage when refueling buses.
- Train new drivers on existing runs while bus is dead heading.
- Hold joint workshops with drivers and mechanics to improve transportation operation.
- Use driver incentive system for reducing vehicle fuel consumption.
- Review driver times and routes. Determine most efficient vehicle utilization, layover and storage plan to minimize miles for school as well as personal vehicles.
- Always maintain patience, courtesy and good humor.

*Important Note/Disclaimer: At all times, drivers should maintain safe and secure driving practices. Drivers should be trained in accepted practices geared to obtain maximum fuel economy before utilizing them. The above ideas are suggestions only and it is recommended that they be engaged in with prior-approval from pupil transportation driving authorities.*