**TEMPLATE – Letter to Bus Driver**

Dear Bus Driver:

Parents and guardians trust you to transport their children to and from school every day. Riding a bus is one of the safest forms of transportation available. As a trusted member of the community, you have the ability to influence the behavior and health of students and their parents.

**[Insert School Name and if appropriate additional partners]** is part of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality’s (ADEQ’s) comprehensive vehicle “No Idling” program. To reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses, we have adopted an idling policy at this school. Attached you will find the district policy.

**Did You Know**?

* Idling school buses can pollute air in and aroundthe bus, and the exhaust can enter school buildings through air intakes, doors, and open windows. Emissions from diesel exhaust can lead to serious health conditions like asthma and allergies, and children are especially vulnerable.
* Idling buses waste fuel and money**.** School districts that eliminate unnecessary idling can save significant dollars in fuel costs each year.
* School bus engines do not need to idle more than a few minutes to warm up; extended idling causes engine damage. Engine manufacturers recommend no more than three to five minutes of idling.

**What You Can Do:**

As part of our program, ADEQ is asking all parents, teachers, staff, bus drivers, and delivery truck drivers to reduce unnecessary idling to reduce students’ exposure to hazardous air pollutants emitted from the exhaust of idling vehicles. We are asking you to set an example for the rest of the community by limiting idling to 5 minutes at schools and idling as little as possible in other locations. This simple change will improve the air our children breathe, as well as the air quality in our neighborhoods

Included with the letter is a brochure and flyer to tell you more about idling reduction and a pledge sheet. As part of our “No Idling” campaign, we ask drivers to pledge to not idle unnecessarily. Return your completed pledge sheet to the school.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our children and your support of this program.