

## Sample/Template: B2 School Newsletter Article

\_\_\_\_\_ will be participating in an anti-idling program called Breathe Better(B<sup>2</sup>) starting this school year. The B<sup>2</sup> Program will help reduce the amount of air pollution your children are exposed to from school buses and vehicles while on school grounds. Also, saving fuel saves money! We hope that parents will support this effort by turning off their vehicle's engine while they are waiting during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We believe this will have a positive impact on our children's health. Children are at a higher risk from air pollution exposure because they often spend a large part of their time playing outdoors, and they breathe more than adults do. Children are also more likely to have asthma, which may be aggravated by certain air pollutants. Asthma in children is one the most common causes of school absences. Look for the new voluntary anti-idling policy in the student/parent handbook and for the new anti-idling signs around the school campus. Reducing idling should help create a better learning environment for everyone!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets health standards for several outdoor air pollutants, including particulate matter (PM) and ground-level ozone. These two pollutants are of particular concern in South Carolina and both are a focus of B<sup>2</sup>.

Emissions from vehicles, along with wood burning, lawn maintenance, and emissions from industry, contribute to PM and the formation of ground-level ozone. Our school will help reduce some of these emissions by the reduction of idling vehicles in the school parking lot and car pick-up line, and \_\_\_\_\_ (optional; list the air quality activities your school has selected). We will also be working with our school bus drivers to reduce idling while buses are on the school grounds.