

Texas PTA Clean School Bus Program

More than 36,000 buses carrying an estimated 1.3 million students hit the roads of Texas each school day. A little more than one-third of these buses are more than 10 years old. Older vehicles emit more pollution than do newer models. Exposure to diesel exhaust from school buses can aggravate respiratory problems, asthma and allergies. An easy retrofit of buses with clean-technology devices can reduce emissions by up to 85 percent.

The Texas Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Clean School Bus Program is a comprehensive program designed to improve the health of schoolchildren and bus drivers by reducing emissions of diesel exhaust from school buses. The program, offered by a division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in partnership with Texas PTA, is designed to:

- Award grants for eligible projects that reduce pollutants from diesel exhaust.
- Educate school district personnel about options that can improve the school bus fleet and benefit health and the environment.
- Educate school district personnel about the emissions and potential health impacts associated with diesel bus idling, with a goal of eliminating unnecessary idling.

Funding is available through the Texas PTA Clean School Bus Program to all school districts and charter schools in Texas that operate one or more diesel-powered school buses, or a transportation system provided by a countywide school district. The grant funds cover the purchase and retrofitting of emission-reduction devices.

All sizes of diesel-powered school buses are eligible for grant funding. The bus proposed for retrofit must operate on a regular daily route to and from a school and have at least five years of remaining useful life, unless the applicant agrees to remove the retrofit device at the end of the life of the bus and install the device on a different eligible bus. The program encourages applicants to reuse an operational retrofit device on another vehicle when retiring a retrofitted bus. Applicants must certify in the application that each specific bus retrofit project meets the eligibility requirements.

Texas PTA currently has over \$500,000 available to retrofit school buses in areas of Texas. Please contact Alex Peterson at 512-476-6769 or 800-TALK-PTA to see if funding is available in your area. For additional information regarding the benefits of retrofitting school buses, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 512-239-3100 or visit their Web site at www.texascleanschoolbus.org.