TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Reducing Emissions from Diesel-Powered School Buses

Texas Clean School Bus Program

What is the Texas Clean School Bus Program?

The Texas Clean School Bus Program is a comprehensive program developed to improve the onboard air quality in school buses. The program, offered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, is designed to:

- Award grants for eligible projects to install emissions-reduction technologies for diesel-powered school buses.
- 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 benefits of reducing diesel-bus idling, with a goal of eliminating unnecessary idling.

How do I get funding to upgrade my school bus?

Funding is available through the Texas Clean School Bus Program to all public 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 emissions-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.

What retrofits are available?

School districts have several ways to retrofit their buses with newer technology that helps to reduce emissions. Some options are listed below:

Closed Crankcase Filtration System:

A closed crankcase filtration system is a device that uses an air filter to trap particulate matter. These systems may be more effective at reducing children's in-cabin exposures to pollutants than control systems fitted into the exhaust systems alone.

Diesel Particulate Filter:

A diesel particulate filter can be installed between the engine and the exhaust pipe of a diesel-powered bus. This type of retrofit can reduce particulate-matter emissions from the tailpipe by 85 to 90 percent.

Diesel Oxidation Catalyst:

An oxidation catalyst is a type of advanced catalytic converter for diesel vehicles. Oxidation catalysts can perform on either regular diesel or ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. This type of retrofit can reduce particulate-matter emissions from the tailpipe by 20 to 40 percent.

All technologies must be verified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the California Air Resources Board, or be a technology that the commission finds will bring about significant emissions reductions.

How much money can a school district qualify to receive?

Your school district's grant amount depends on which retrofit device is selected for each school bus. Visit our website at <TexasCleanSchoolBus.org> for the most current conditions regarding the total amount a school district may apply for and the limits on how much money can be reimbursed for each retrofit device.

Are there other ways to reduce emissions?

School districts can also adopt voluntary strategies to help reduce school-bus emissions, which can also help improve fuel economy.

Consider these voluntary strategies:

- Begin a voluntary idling limit for school buses.
- Enhance maintenance programs for school buses.

Are there other sources of funding?

Yes, there are a number of sources throughout Texas that provide funding to offset the costs associated with the retrofit, repower, or replacement of school buses. For example, school districts located in designated counties may qualify for funding to replace existing school buses with newer, lower-emitting buses through one of several grants under the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan. Visit our website at <terpgrants.org> to view a detailed list of these potential sources of funding.

How do I get more information?

If you are interested in the program, TCEQ staff is available to help you with grant applications and can provide other resources.

Website: TexasCleanSchoolBus.org

By phone: 800-919-TERP

To receive the most up-to-date program information by e-mail, send an e-mail to <cleanbus@tceq.texas.gov>.

Texas Clean School Bus Program

TERP
TEXAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

Take Care of Texas

TakeCareOfTexas.org
Online Tips to Do Your Part!

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

How is our customer service?
www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey

The TCEQ is an equal opportunity employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

GI-381 (Rev. 6/16)
www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-381.html

printed on recycled paper