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## Ohio EPA Awards Additional Clean Diesel School Bus Grants

After receiving additional federal funding, Ohio EPA has awarded grants to reduce diesel emissions for six school districts in addition to the 27 grants announced in June. This means children and developmental disability programs will benefit from new pollution control equipment on 100 school buses.

These grants are supported with a combination of funds from federal Clean Diesel grants awarded to Ohio EPA from U.S. EPA, and civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's environmental protection laws.

An additional \$276,863 was awarded to help reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust. The equipment is expected to eliminate more than 130 pounds of small particle pollution, and 4,760.4 pounds of nitrogen oxide. These benefits will compound every year these buses are in service.

Grant recipients include:

- **Fort Frye Local Schools**, \$39,399 (Washington County), to install one diesel particulate filter and idle reduction equipment on 15 buses;
- **Harrison Hills City Schools**, \$74,550 (Harrison County), to install idle reduction equipment on 34 buses;
- **Liberty Union-Thurston Local Schools**, \$42,705 (Fairfield County), to install idle reduction equipment on 13 buses;
- **Minerva Local Schools**, \$19,170 (Stark County), to install idle reduction equipment on nine buses;
- **North Royalton City Schools**, \$86,133 (Cuyahoga County), to install idle reduction equipment on 23 buses; and
- **Shaker Heights City Schools**, \$15,906 (Cuyahoga County), to install idle reduction equipment on six buses.

Ohio EPA established the Clean Diesel School Bus Fund in 2006 to encourage school districts to install pollution controls on diesel school buses, and use cleaner fuel to reduce air emissions and improve air quality. More than \$7 million has been awarded to retrofit 2,405 school buses statewide, removing nearly 118 tons of pollutants from the air.

Priority is given to applicants in areas that do not meet federal air quality standards for fine particulates, and districts that employ additional measures such as anti-idling programs to reduce emissions from school bus fleets.

Retrofitting school buses reduces fine particle pollution in diesel exhaust by between 20 and 90 percent, depending on the type of control equipment installed. Fine particles, known as particulates, can lodge deeply in the lungs and aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis. Children are most susceptible to this kind of air pollution because their lungs and respiratory systems are still developing.

[Applications can be found online](#) and more information is available from the Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873.