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## **Ohio EPA Proposes Rule Updates for School Bus Retrofit Grants**

Ohio EPA has proposed updates to [rules](#) that govern grants awarded to schools for retrofitting buses to reduce diesel emissions. A public hearing will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011.

The rules propose these significant changes:

- adding County Boards of Developmental Disabilities as eligible recipients for diesel retrofit grants; and
- updating the model years of school buses that would be eligible for retrofits to the years 1996 through 2006.

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 2,412 school buses statewide, removing nearly 118 tons of pollutants from the air. The next grant application deadline is March 1, 2012.

The hearing will be held in Conference Room A at the Lazarus Government Center, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus, at 10:30 a.m. All visitors should plan to register at the security desk in the entrance lobby and provide photo identification. Please allow extra time to complete the security registration process. All interested parties may present oral or written comments concerning the proposed rule at the hearing.

After the close of the public comment period, Ohio EPA will review comments and make necessary changes to the rules. After final changes are made the rules will be adopted.

For more information about the proposed rulemaking governing the school bus retrofit grants contact Carolyn Watkins at (614) 644-2873, or [carolyn.watkins@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:carolyn.watkins@epa.ohio.gov).

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