

reimbursed for each retrofit device. Closed crankcase filtration systems may receive up to \$800, diesel oxidation catalysts up to \$1,200 and diesel particulate filters up to \$7,500. These caps are per 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.

## 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.


**On the Web:** [www.texascleanschoolbus.org](http://www.texascleanschoolbus.org)

**By phone:** 512-239-3100

To receive the most up-to-date program information by e-mail, send an e-mail to [educate@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:educate@tceq.state.tx.us).

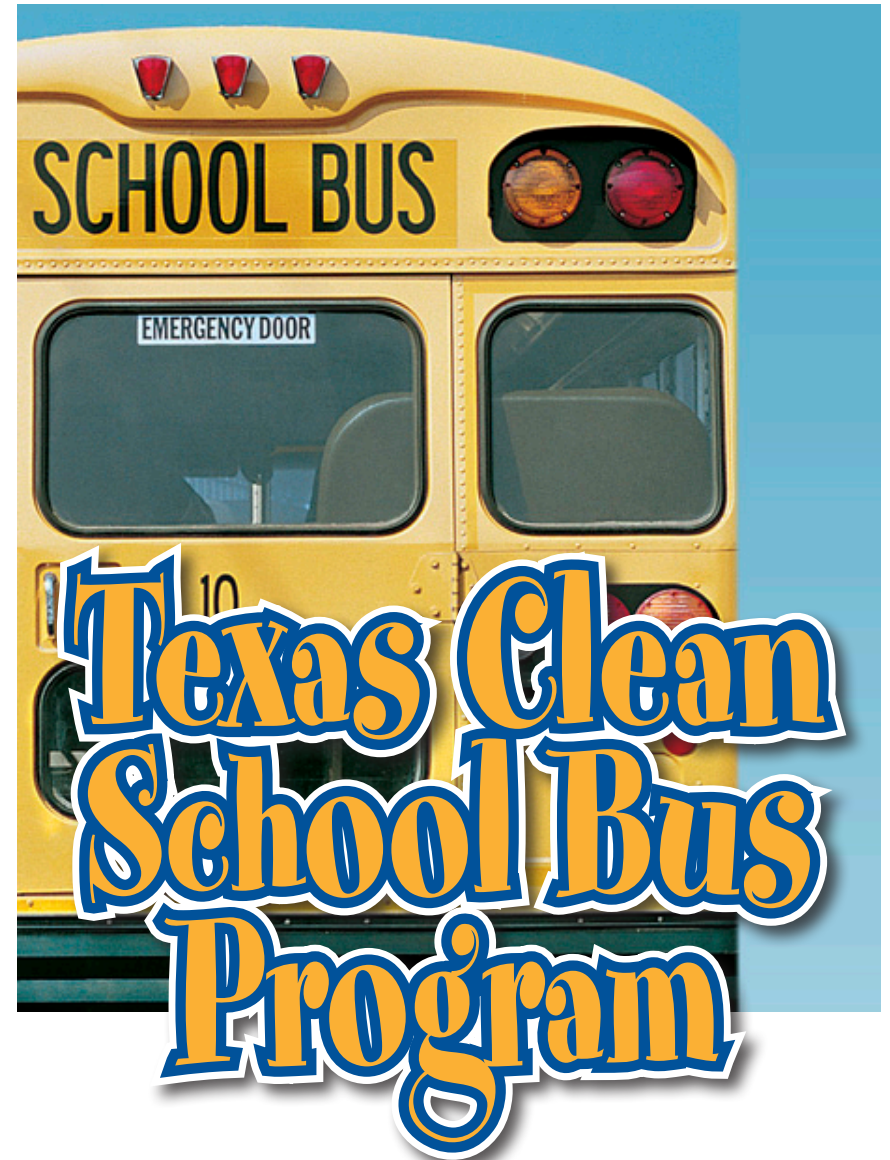


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**Protecting the health  
of schoolchildren and  
bus drivers**

## What is the Texas Clean School Bus Program?

The Texas 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 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is designed to:

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

## Why should we pay attention to particulate matter emissions from school buses?

Air pollution from diesel vehicles has health implications for everyone, but children may be especially susceptible because they breathe more air relative to their body weight and their respiratory systems are still developing.

Diesel exhaust contains small particles, known as fine particulate matter, as well as smog-forming and toxic air pollutants. Exposure to diesel exhaust can aggravate asthma, allergies, and respiratory problems. Some studies suggest that long-term exposure increases the risk of lung cancer.

## 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 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 in another vehicle when removed from a retired bus. Applicants must certify in the application that each specific bus retrofit project meets these eligibility requirements.

## What are the retrofit projects?

School districts have several options for retrofitting their buses with newer technology that helps to reduce particulate-matter emissions. Some options are listed below:

### Closed Crankcase Filtration System:

Crankcase emissions are created during combustion in reciprocating engines. Diesel engines have open crankcase vents because closing them could allow contaminants to impact engine components if unfiltered. By installing a closed crankcase filtration system, particulate matter emissions can be reduced inside a bus by 80 percent.

### Diesel Particulate Filter:

A diesel particulate filter can be installed between the engine and the exhaust pipe of a diesel-powered bus. The filter is effective in reducing particulate-matter emissions by 60 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 by 20 to 30 percent.

## 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. There are no limits on how many grant requests a school district may make. But there are limits on how much money can be

