

Clean Buses for Cleveland Children

School buses provide over 22,000 of Cleveland's children with safe and convenient transportation between their homes and classrooms. On average, children spend more than an hour on a bus each school day as well as time waiting for, and getting on and off, the bus.

Unfortunately, school buses - particularly older ones that lack emissions control devices - emit tiny, sooty particles and toxic gases in their exhaust that can pose health hazards to children. When inhaled, pollutants in diesel exhaust may aggravate asthma and allergies or cause other serious health problems for our children.

The good news is that the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has taken advantage of cleaner technologies and fuels that can reduce pollution by 90 percent or more. This means cleaner air for students, bus drivers, teachers and the community.

CMSD has received over \$1.5 million in grant funding from the following sources: Cleveland Clean Air Century Campaign (a division of the American Lung Association of Ohio), U.S EPA, Ohio EPA, and Toyota. The funding was awarded to install pollution control equipment (diesel particulate filters) on 245 of the district's 302 school buses.

They have instituted an anti-idling policy in conjunction with the retrofit program to reduce school bus idling by 50% or 45 minutes per bus per day. The reduction of idling improves our air and saves money.

The ultimate goal of the CMSD transportation department is to improve their school bus fleet, making it not only the safest mode of transportation but the healthiest.

