



# NEWS

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**Air District provides \$13 million for bus retrofit and replacement grants**  
*Funding is estimated to provide 85 new buses in 23 school districts throughout the region*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air District have approved an allocation of \$13 million to provide incentives to Bay Area school districts to replace or retrofit older diesel school buses and reduce children’s exposure to diesel particulate pollution.

Today’s funding is estimated to provide 85 new busses in 23 school districts throughout the 9-county Bay Area region.

“Air pollution from older diesel school buses is a serious health concern for Bay Area schoolchildren,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Reducing exposure to diesel exhaust will protect a child’s still-developing respiratory system and provide a healthier school environment.”

The program provides grant funding to purchase new, less-polluting school buses, replace older engines, and put air pollution control equipment in the form of particulate filters on buses that are already on the road. Funds are also available for replacing compressed natural gas tanks reaching the end of their useful life.

Diesel exhaust is composed of very fine particles and toxic gases which can penetrate deep into the respiratory system and cause serious health problems, including decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. The state of California considers diesel exhaust a toxic air contaminant and a probable human carcinogen.

In terms of emissions, newer diesel buses are vastly cleaner than the older ones they replace. And installing particulate control devices onto an older bus reduces emissions by at least 85 percent for each diesel engine.

Since 2008, the Bay Area Air District has retrofitted 290 school buses and replaced 107 buses at 37 public school districts throughout the region. 268 compressed natural gas tanks have also been replaced.

Funding is provided through the Carl Moyer program, a partnership between the California Air Resources Board and local air districts for the purpose of reducing air pollution emissions from local heavy and medium duty engines.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ([www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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