



Garland ISD Awarded \$43,500 to Retrofit School Buses

More than 36,000 buses carrying an estimated 1.3 million students hit the roads of Texas each school day. A little more than one-third of these buses are more than 10 years old. Older vehicles emit more pollution than newer models. Exposure to diesel exhaust from school buses can aggravate respiratory problems, asthma and allergies. An easy retrofit of older buses with clean-technology devices can reduce emissions by 70 to 80 percent.

The Texas PTA received funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as part of their Supplemental Environmental Project program. These funds are being distributed to districts around the state, specifically for the purpose of retrofitting older vehicles.

Representatives from Texas PTA attended the Garland ISD school board meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2010, to present a check in the amount of \$43,000 from the Texas PTA Clean School Bus Program to school officials. In their presentation, Leah Filzow-Perez, Texas PTA Legislative Action Chairman, and Alexandra Peterson, Texas PTA Director of Finance, commended the district for their proactive measures to retrofit the older buses in the fleet. They noted that retrofitting greatly improves the air quality inside the cabins of school buses.

“Texas PTA is proud to partner with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to improve air quality for Texas children,” said Jan Wilkerson, Texas PTA President, in an email. “Garland ISD is just the first of many districts we hope to assist in the coming months and years.”

For more information on the Clean School Bus Program, visit the TCEQ Web page or the Environmental Legislative page of the Texas PTA Web site.