



2018 Missouri Clean Diesel Program Replaced School Buses in Combination with Volkswagen Trust Providing Matching Funds

For the fourth year in a row, the Missouri Clean Diesel Program improved air quality by helping owners of school buses buy new cleaner-burning vehicles. Grant recipients replaced buses not scheduled for retirement so that the program could introduce environment-friendly buses into fleets earlier than expected.

Through the federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), the department awarded partial funding for 29 new buses — more than the twice the number funded in previous years. The department expanded the program by aligning it with the Volkswagen Trust. The department matched the DERA grant with Volkswagen Trust funds earning a bonus and more than doubling the DERA base funding.

Diesel emissions contain particle pollution and precursors of ground-level ozone. Particle pollution can penetrate people’s lungs by breaching natural defenses, leading to respiratory diseases. Ground-level ozone is the pollutant of most concern across Missouri; it affects our ability to breathe, and it aggravates asthma and other respiratory diseases. Missouri currently has several areas that violate or come close to violating EPA’s national standard for ground-level ozone. EPA sets a standard for ground-level ozone to protect public health and the environment. These school bus replacements not only provide safer transportation for children, but also reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 11 tons.

Additionally, several school districts opted to donate their old buses to provide valuable training to their local fire departments. Dexter, Hillsboro, and Joplin school districts donated nine buses for firefighters in their towns and neighboring towns to attend school bus rescue training provided through the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute. In total, over 100 volunteer and full-time firefighters were able to attend vital certified trainings that strengthen emergency services in their communities. In September 2018, the air program held a lottery drawing to select the awardees.

The department took school bus replacement applications for both DERA and VW Trust Category 1: School Buses from August 7, 2018 to September 14, 2018. The department selected the following school districts by a lottery drawing on September 24, 2018 to receive 25% cost-share up to \$22,000 to replace 29 school buses.

Selected School Districts	Number of Buses Replaced
Sullivan C-2 School District	3 buses
Hillsboro R-III School District	3 buses
Joplin School District	3 buses
Lebanon R-III School District	3 buses
Junction Hill C-12 School District	2 buses

Gideon 37 School District	1 bus
Adair County R-II School District	1 bus
School of the Osage R-2 School District	2 buses
First Student, Inc	3 buses
Schwartz Bus Service, Inc	1 bus
Howell Valley R-I School District	1 bus
Dexter R-XI School District	3 buses
New Haven School District	2 buses
Thornfield R-I School District	1 bus