



A Partnership to Reduce Pollution from School Buses

*National Idling Reduction
Planning Conference
May 18, 2004*



Overview of CSB USA Program



- EPA initiative started in 2003
- Based on EPA's successful Voluntary Diesel Retrofit Program
- Partnership between:
 - Educators, industry, transportation mgrs, government, environment/health orgs.
- Goal: 3 *R*'s
 - *R*etrofit; *R*eplace; *R*educe Idling

Why School Buses?



- 24 million children ride school buses every day
- Diesel exhaust presents a significant public health risk - including asthma exacerbation
- School buses are the safest way for students to get to and from school, but most fleets are very old
 - Many old buses have few (or no) emission controls
 - 400,000 are diesel-powered
- New bus engine emission standards don't affect buses already on the road
 - Today's kindergartners will have graduated college before the benefits of those rules are fully realized!

CSB USA Mission: The 3 R's



- **Reduce Idling & Reinforce Smart Operating Practices**
 - Saves fuel and money
 - Appropriate for all bus fleets
- **Retrofit 1991 and Later Buses**
 - Install equipment and/or use fuels that reduce pollutants from diesel exhaust
- **Replace 1990 and Earlier Buses**
 - Significant safety and environmental benefits

Reduce Idling and Reinforce Smart Operating Practices



Idling Guidance

- Establish Idling Policy for District
 - Limit idling on or near school property
 - Limit warm-up idling to 3-5 minutes
- Use internal electrical circuitry/battery to power flashing lights
- Consider block heaters for cold climates
- Provide comfortable waiting areas for bus drivers at schools



Reduce Idling and Reinforce Smart Operating Practices



Smart Operating Practices

- Avoid caravanning - keep a distance from other diesel vehicles especially if there is visible smoke
- Implement good fleet maintenance procedures
- Shorten commute times for kids
- Use the cleanest buses on longest routes
- Minimize time children spend outside school when buses are arriving and departing



Clean School Bus USA: Future Plans

- Expand to school districts nationwide
 - \$5 million allocated to grants in '04
 - \$65 million in President's budget for '05
- Expand partnerships with States, air agencies, education organizations
- Launch anti-idling campaign nationwide
 - New materials
 - Video for drivers
 - Enhanced web site
 - Idling Calculator; Links; Sample Policy
 - Collaboration with governments, industry, orgs.

Clean School Bus USA: It Can Work for Any School District

- Reduced idling will save \$, engine wear-and-tear, fuel, and lower diesel emissions
- Retrofit and replacement options can work for any school district
 - EPA offers technical and some financial assistance
 - Partnerships are the key to successful projects
- Through education and action we can provide tomorrow's buses to today's children



For more information:

Tomorrow's Buses
for Today's Children



CLEAN SCHOOL BUS USA



www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus



- www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus
- www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/antiidling
- www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit

