

Los Angeles Unified School District

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

333 S. Beaudry Ave., 24th floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 241-6766

FAX: (213) 241-8952

www.lausd.net



NEWS RELEASE

Contacts: Ellen T. Morgan (213) 241-6766

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L.A UNIFIED AWARDED TWO ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

DISTRICT AWARDED \$536,000 GRANT FROM CARB AND AQMD

L.A. Unified's Transportation Services Division (TSD) is pleased to announce a grant award of \$536,000 from California Air Resources Board (CARB) and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for two electric school buses and charging infrastructure. These electric school buses will be piloted in central Los Angeles due to the battery range of 60 miles from a single charge.

Electric school buses require less maintenance than their diesel counterparts and are less expensive to operate. According to CARB, an electric bus will save approximately \$10,521 per year due to lower maintenance and lower electricity costs compared to diesel.

"It is critical that as we replace our aging bus fleet with new safe, energy-efficient, and zero emission school buses, that we also continue to build infrastructures to support our greening efforts," said Office of Educational Services Chief Executive Officer Dr. Thelma Melendez. "In addition, LAUSD has always been driven by an effort to ensure safe transportation for its students, and has incorporated an aggressive alternative fuel program to this effort."

The program began in 2003, when the Board of Education adopted the Healthy Breathing Initiative, mandating that the school district accepts bids to purchase or contract buses that meet strict emission standards. It was important to the board to ensure everyone in the South Coast Air Basin was aware of on-going efforts to clean the air that are efficient, economical and could be replicated by other school district fleets.

There are approximately 1,300 school buses in the District's school bus fleet with more than 60% alternative fuel buses comprising of 600 compressed natural gas (CNG), 100 ultra-low emission and 141 propane buses. This reflects a reduction of more than 2,600 metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which is approximately a 7.5% reduction from Transportation Department's 2007 baseline.

"Protecting the health and safety of our students is one of my highest priorities and greening the District's bus fleet reduces students' exposure to harmful diesel exhaust emissions," said Superintendent Michelle King.

The Transportation Services Division transports approximately 41,000 students daily and operates the largest alternative fuel school bus fleet in California. For more information, click on <http://laschoolride.lausd.net> or contact LAUSD Transportation Services Division at 800-LABUSES/1-800-522-8737.