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## **EPA awards \$500,000 to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to Reduce Diesel Emissions from School Buses**

Salt Lake City, Utah – School districts along the Wasatch Front will be transporting students on cleaner school buses thanks to a grant through the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ).

The UDEQ announced today it has been awarded \$500,000 to replace 15 school buses through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Clean Diesel Campaign. The grant will fund 25% of the cost for Davis, Granite, Provo, Tooele, and Weber School Districts to replace older school buses with new.

“Weber School District has tried diligently to keep up with our transportation needs since the down-turn of the economy, and it has been a struggle. This grant assistance gives us a much needed boost to help us get back on track,” said Jeff Stephens, Weber School District Superintendent. “Not only does it help us to keep up with an aging fleet, but taking these older buses off the road will improve the air for our schoolchildren.”

Using buses that meet the latest EPA standards will reduce emissions by 90-95% and save over 53,690 gallons of diesel fuel. The grant requires that buses with engine model years ranging from 1995-2000 will be permanently disabled before placing the new buses into service. “The districts will need to provide proof that the engine and chassis have been permanently disabled,” said Lisa Burr, grant coordinator for the Division of Air Quality. “This will ensure the project results in emissions reductions.”

The UDEQ has been participating in EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign since 2008. Over \$10 million in state and federal grants have helped 53 small businesses, 34 school districts, two government entities, and one university purchase cleaner and more fuel efficient equipment for their operations.

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### **About DEQ**

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.

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