

NEWS RELEASE

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MRDD School Buses Get Pollution Control Equipment

In an effort to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses, The Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) is retrofitting 38 Montgomery County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) school buses with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC).

Retrofitting refers to the installation of advanced emissions control technology on older buses. DOCs use a chemical process to break down pollutants in the exhaust stream into less harmful components. The catalysts can be installed on any new or used bus, and run on regular diesel fuel. DOCs are designed to reduce particulate matter by 20-50% and carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons by 90%.

This local initiative was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus USA program, which was launched in April 2003, to bring together partners from business, education, transportation and public health organizations to eliminate unnecessary public school bus idling, to retrofit buses and to replace the oldest buses with new, less polluting buses.

The buses are being retrofitted at MRDD's transportation center located at 5450 Salem Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

The retrofit operation will begin on July 7th and should be completed by July 9th.

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