



Office of  
Community Relations

## North East Independent School District

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **District receives \$208,898 to upgrade school buses**

*Buses will receive technology to improve air quality*

**November 20, 2008** – North East ISD received a grant totaling \$208,898.72 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Clean School Bus Program. The grant will go toward retrofitting 136 NEISD school buses with technology to improve the air quality. NEISD applied for this grant in August as a proactive approach to improving the environment for its students, employees and community.

The following devices will be installed on school buses with models between 2000-2007: a Closed Crankcase Filtration System, which reduces particulate matter emissions by 80 percent, and Diesel Oxidation Catalysts, which further eliminates emissions by 20 to 40 percent. These models were chosen so they could be retained and used for at least five years after date of the retrofit. The installation is scheduled through March 2009.

“This initiative, with the lead of our Fleet Foreman, Earl Stewart, provides funds to retrofit 36 percent of the bus fleet without having to use Maintenance and Operations funds,” said Nolan Anderson, executive director of Transportation. “Retrofitting will contribute to the community’s ecological objectives.”

“A relatively small investment in a retrofit can reduce emissions by 70 to 80 percent,” said Larry R. Soward, TCEQ commissioner. “By installing these devices, we help protect the health of Texas school children.”

The Texas Education Agency reports that more than 33 percent of school buses in local fleets are more than 10 years old. The Clean School Bus Program offers funding and resources to Texas schools to reduce the emissions of diesel exhaust from school buses.

**View this online at [www.neisd.net/ComRel/MediaCenter.html](http://www.neisd.net/ComRel/MediaCenter.html).**

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#### About NEISD:

North East ISD has close to 70 schools and magnet programs with a fall 2008 enrollment of more than 63,000 students. NEISD employs more than 10,000 people. It is the second largest public school district in the San Antonio area and the ninth largest in the state. NEISD has 19 Exemplary schools, the most in Bexar County, and is a Recognized district. More information about NEISD can be found at [www.neisd.net](http://www.neisd.net).