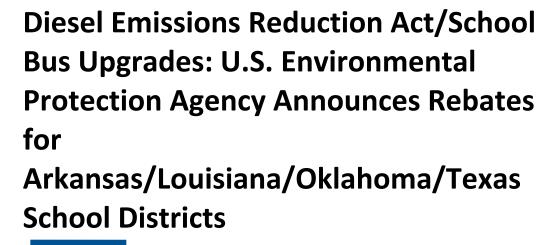
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The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 ("EPA") announced in an April 24th news release it was awarding \$11.5 to replace 580 older diesel school buses.

School districts in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas received \$1,095,000.

The upgrades are expected to improve air quality.

The funds are being distributed pursuant to the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. The program is stated to have funded more than 1,000 clean diesel projects in the United States. This is stated to have reduced emissions in more than 70,000 engines. The acquisition of newer diesel engines results in a 90 percent decrease in air emissions. The air pollutant emissions reduced include nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

The Arkansas school district receiving funds is the Trumann School District which is receiving a grant of \$20,000.

A copy of the news release can be downloaded <u>here</u>.