



# PROPANE BUS FLEET CASE STUDY

## DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transportation Fleet Manager: Ken Winters  
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## BACKGROUND FACTS

Students Transported Annually: 5,000  
Area of service: 68 sq. miles  
Annual school-bus mileage: 900,000

## FLEET FACTS

Total School Buses: 86

- 29 propane
- 57 diesel

Total Other Vehicles: 44

- Propane: 3 forklifts, 2 E250 vans
- Gasoline: 39 vehicles

Years using propane: 2  
Refueling facilities: 1  
Gallons on-site propane storage: 18,000  
Propane Price: \$1.10 per gallon 5/15/13  
Diesel Price: \$2.98 per gallon 5/15/13

## PROPANE COST SAVINGS

Grant funding total: (Railroad Commission and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)  
\$2,925,184.30

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUOTES

Ken Winters, DISD fleet manager: "Propane is an environmentally friendly fuel as well as more cost-effective than diesel or gasoline. We use only our propane buses for the summer routes, so we don't even buy diesel over the summer. An oil change on a propane engine is a quarter of the cost of our diesels. We do not have to worry about fuel treatment with propane like you do with diesel. Propane engines in our fleet do not use a turbo, EGR cooler, DPF filter, high pressure pump for the injectors and all the sensors that go along with them. The performance and noise level is better than our diesels. There is no way to predict mechanical failures, but what we are seeing in our fleet with EGR and DPF repairs, fuel rebates, oil change savings, plus the initial price per gallon difference, with all of this taken into consideration, it is looking like we will be saving the district an average of \$110,000.00 to \$150,000.00 annually. We are going to keep adding propane buses, vans, and pickups to the fleet as the budget allows. Our goal is to have more than half of the fleet on propane."

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