



Brookings School District

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

Nate Loehr, Director of Transportation

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November 1, 2024

Transportation Department

Winter is coming! We've switched to #1 diesel fuel (cold-weather diesel) to prepare for the colder months. Making the switch early allows us to blend #1 and #2 (summer diesel) fuels in our buses, giving them a balanced mix to keep them running smoothly. Once we have a good blend in the fuel tanks, we'll transition to a 50/50 pre-mixed blend of #1 and #2 diesel, maximizing our diesel buses' reliability even in winter. Though #1 diesel costs slightly more than #2, it's well worth the price compared to fixing a fuel line that's frozen due to gelled fuel.

The EPA recently released a new round of "Clean School Bus" rebates. While we're fortunate to have a fairly new fleet, this also limits our eligibility for EPA grants, which target buses made in 2010 or earlier. Currently, we have one bus (a small special education bus, #18) that qualifies. Since Brookings is classified as a non-prioritized district, we're eligible for up to \$20,000 toward replacing this bus. However, a new propane bus in this category costs around \$140,000, which would leave us with a \$120,000 out-of-pocket expense. Electric buses, starting at around \$300,000, also require individual charging stations, upgrades to our electrical system, and indoor facilities for optimal performance. We'll continue exploring EPA grant opportunities for the Brookings School District Transportation Department to offset these costs and move towards cleaner energy.

Thank you to Board Members for serving on the Brookings School Board.

Respectfully,

Nate Loehr

Director of Transportation