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Propane Council Donates \$30,000 to Schools Driving Propane Buses

Jenna Bush Hager emceeds event at Boston Public Schools, touts nationwide adoptions of propane school buses

BOSTON (September 30, 2015) – School buses already make up the largest share of mass transportation in the U.S. and are the safest mode of transportation to and from school. This year, however, the yellow bus is getting an upgrade. More than 500,000 students will ride a school bus powered by the alternative fuel propane this **school year**.

“Diesel **was** the standard in school transportation, but for districts that want to reduce harmful emissions, save money and create a safer, healthier ride, propane **is rapidly becoming the preferred** alternative,” said Roy Willis, Propane Education & Research Council president and CEO.

Recognizing these benefits, schools across 45 states – a total of more than 7,000 buses – have transitioned to propane. The trend prompted PERC to start a campaign to teach communities about the benefits of propane-powered transportation. The Council is partnering with journalist and former teacher Jenna Bush Hager and the nonprofit Adopt a Classroom to donate more than \$30,000 to teachers at schools adopting propane buses.

“It’s clear when you talk to school administrators and transportation departments that they are saving more than just dollars and cents by going with propane buses,” said Hager. “The switch is improving their school as a whole and giving them the opportunity to invest in more teachers or school programs.”

The Propane Education & Research Council’s donation will benefit teachers at seven schools this fall, including Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School in Massachusetts; Kyrene Monte Vista in Arizona; Broward Education Foundation in Florida; Wilkes Elementary in Oregon; Five Star Education Foundation in Colorado; St. Francis Elementary in Minnesota; and Friendswood Jr. High in Texas.

Donations began today with an event at Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School in Boston. Hager surprised teachers at the school and announced that they would receive a total of \$10,000 from PERC to purchase supplies for their **students**. Boston Public Schools is the first district in the city to switch from diesel to propane buses **and has acquired 85**.

The transition from diesel to propane buses has been reported in 20 of the top 25 designated market areas, and four of the 10 largest school districts in the country are using them. Among the health and

safety advantages of propane buses is that they are quieter than diesel and they reduce exposure to diesel exhaust, which the World Health Organization classifies as a carcinogen.

“As a former teacher and parent, I know that the school day begins and ends on the bus,” Hager said. “When we give our kids a safer, healthier start to the day, it can improve their entire experience in the classroom and at home, too.”

For more information on propane school buses, including bus safety tips for parents and kids courtesy of the National Association of Pupil Transportation, visit BetterOurBuses.com. To donate to teachers in your local community, visit AdoptAClassroom.org.

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Propane Education & Research Council: *The Propane Education & Research Council is a nonprofit organization established, operated, and funded by the propane industry. PERC drives technology development to expand adoption of propane as a clean, domestic, and affordable energy source and leads safety and training efforts among propane retailers and consumers. PERC programs benefit a variety of industries including fleet vehicle management, landscaping, residential and commercial building, agriculture, and material handling. For more information, visit Propane.com.*

Jenna Bush Hager: *Jenna Bush Hager is a Contributing Correspondent for NBC News’ “Today.” She is a two-time New York Times bestselling author, mother of two, and a former Washington D.C. elementary school teacher. She serves as the Young Leadership Ambassador & Chair for UNICEF’s Next Generation committee, which aims to save, protect and improve the lives of children around the world. In 2011, Hager was honored as one of Glamour magazine’s Women of the Year.*

AdoptAClassroom.org: *AdoptAClassroom.org gives teachers a hand by providing much needed classroom supplies and materials to help their students learn and succeed. As an award-winning 501(c)(3), AAC makes it easy for donors to provide funding and support to K-12 classrooms in public, private and charter schools throughout the U.S. On average, teachers spend \$600 of their own money each year to equip their classrooms - 20% of teachers spend more than \$1000 annually. Since 1998 AdoptAClassroom.org has raised over \$22 million and benefited more than 5 million students throughout the U.S. AAC holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. For more information, or to adopt a classroom, please visit www.adoptaclassroom.org.*