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**EPA Announces A New Round of School Bus Rebates
at the National School Transportation Association
Annual Meeting & Convention**

CHARLESTON, SC- During a presentation at the National School Transportation Association's annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, Karl Simon, Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Air Office's Transportation and Climate Division, announced that EPA would provide another \$3 million in rebates for the purchase of new school buses. The funds are a part of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) which provides funding for improvements to the nation's school bus fleet intended to help reduce emissions of particulate matter and other pollutants. EPA provided \$2 million in 2012 for school bus purchase rebates and the program received over 1,000 applications for the 28 awards made. Rebates provide access to funding for the purchase of new vehicles with a minimum of red tape. With the reduced administrative burden, awards are made quickly using a random selection process. EPA anticipates starting the process in the fall with awards quickly thereafter. The funds are available to state, local and privately contracted school bus operators.

"We are pleased to see that that EPA found this program as successful as we did. The ease in the administrative burden creates a better environment for all, allowing for more money to be available for the purchase of newer, cleaner buses. We commend EPA for improving the way this program is administered and for their continued support of cleaner vehicles," said Tim Flood, NSTA President.

"We are looking forward to once again offering a rebate program that provides funding to replace older school buses ahead of schedule," said Karl Simon. "This program reduces harmful emissions, improves fuel economy for the school bus fleet, and improves air quality for children who ride buses every day."

In addition to announcing the 2014 rebate program, Mr. Simon will also assist in recognizing the recipients of NSTA's "Go Yellow, Go Green" award, which commends a school bus contractor for their achievements in emission reductions and sustainability as well as those contractors that

meet NSTA Green Fleet Certifications, developed in cooperation with and recognized by EPA's Clean School Bus program.

For additional information on this announcement, please contact Travis Pryor at 703-684-3200 or at tpryor@yellowbuses.org.

About NSTA:

The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers for 50 years. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide. Offices are at 122 South Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703-684-3200. Fax: 703-684-3212.